Hafa Adai!

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$1

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‘At least $110M coming’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» $30M for airport safety, $24M for water infrastructure, other new investments

The $1-trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that the U.S. House of Representatives passed late Friday will bring millions of dollars in new investments to the CNMI, including $30 million to increase airport safety and $24 million in new money for water infrastructure, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

See $110M on Page 4

5 more positive cases

» 2 more die in Guam

By JOSHUA SANTOS
JOSHUA_SANTOS@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

Five more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI, with one identified through travel testing and four confirmed through surveillance testing on Nov. 13, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Sunday night. These new cases bring the CNMI’s total to 389. All five have since been isolated and are being actively monitored.

See 5 MORE on Page 4

Century, Capital are temporary quarantine sites

» Shirley’s Coffee Shop Garapan still open; ‘no engagement with quarantined folk’

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Century Hotel and Capital Hotel, which are both in Garapan, have been temporarily identified as isolation sites,

See CENTURY on Page 4

APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, signs the proclamation making Nov. 15 to 19 National Apprenticeship Week in the CNMI. Standing from left, CNMI Public School System acting Education commissioner Eric Magofna; Northern Marianas Technical Institute chief executive officer Jodina Attao; Northern Marianas College regent Irene Torres; and NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. Others in photo are NMTI trustee Catherine Attao-Toves, seated left, and NMC Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda, seated right.

JOSHUA SANTOS

See story on PAGE 3

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:16pm, Nov. 15, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 84.3%

Days since last community transmission: 2

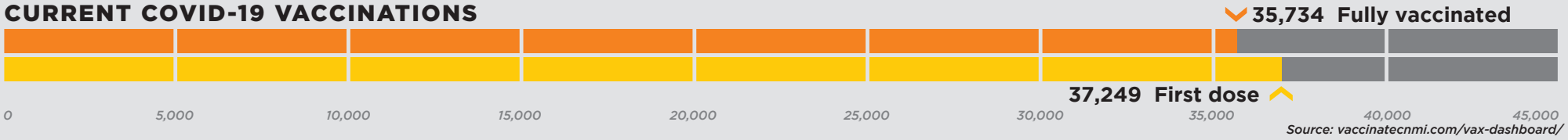
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	32,324
Fully Vaccinated:	30,057
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,925
Fully Vaccinated:	4,750
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	927

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	18,913	29	18,942
Recovered	16,662	254	16,916
Active	1,739	29	1,768
Deaths	256	2	258

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	384	5	389
Traced via Travel Screening	263	1	264
Traced via Community Screening	121	4	125
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

NATION
As many as 160,000 active-duty military members are having trouble feeding their families.
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ASIA
In New Delhi, it is that time of the year again when the sky obscured by thick, gray smog.
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LIFE & STYLE
A Japanese princess who gave up her royal status to marry her college sweetheart arrive in New York.
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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

'Ethics complaint vs Propst's not meant to distract JGO probe'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae, a counselor and advocate for abused women, denies Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (D-Saipan) allegation that the ethics complaint she filed against him is meant to distract a House of Representatives committee's investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

Her decision to file an ethics complaint against Propst has nothing to do with politics, said Vaiagae in an interview shortly after Torres enacted last Wednesday a bill that would allow civil claims for child sexual abuse to be commenced at any time. Vaiagae said she is a clinician and provides services for women that face trauma and have experienced trauma. Vaiagae said her former clients had brought to her attention concerns on sexual assault that have been brewing since 2016. She said those concerns were brought up again in 2017, in how they can achieve justice since the statute of limitations prevents them from filing complaints.

Propst said last Tuesday that the ethics complaint "is obviously a distraction" from the NMI Republican Party and Torres on the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels.

Propst said that Torres' "cronies prefer to distract and destroy and are desperate to change the focus from his horrible record as an inept, incompetent, corrupt governor."

Vaiagae said she has always been an advocate for the rights of abused women even before she made the decision to run for a House Precinct 3 seat during the Oct. 16 special election. Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) won that election.

Vaiagae said she has always assured her clients that, win or lose in the election, she will still serve the community. "I will still continue being Grace the counselor, Grace the advocate," she said.

Vaiagae filed her ethics complaint against Propst before House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

She reiterates that her filing of the complaint has nothing to do with political parties and the JGO investigation. "In fact, for me, I need this question answered," she said, adding that these are women who have experienced trauma and finally have the courage to say, "What are we doing about this? How can we be safe if the allegations were spoken about a leader?"

She said these women asked her how she can assure them that she is an advocate who will provide that security, provide that safe haven for them when she does not have a legislation, not even a law that protects them.

"And all I can tell them is, the day will come when your voices will be heard," said Vaiagae, adding that the enactment of the new law is *that* day. She also has plans open an advocacy center.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) is the author of the bill. Propst and many other representatives are cosponsors of the legislation.

In her letter to Villagomez last Tuesday, Sablan cited allegations that Propst had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College.

Sablan attached to her letter a copy of an Office of the Attorney General's investigation and the reported instances of abuse and attempted rape by Propst, who has denied the allegations.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

US Passport Office to be on Tinian on Friday

Representatives from the CNMI U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility will be on Tinian on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, from 8:3am to 4pm at the Department of Finance, Tinian to accept passport applications and answer any inquiries you may have. For additional information, contact the CNMI U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility at (670) 664-4760/61. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power service interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Nov. 18, 2021, from 7:30am to 4:30pm in the Capital Hill area along Isa Drive, affecting the NMI Retirement Fund Building on Capital Hill.

The outage is necessary so the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can replace three rotted wooden primary power pole with concrete poles and replace 4-spans 3-phase overhead primary conductors with 556 conductors . No water well or wastewater facility will be affected. ***(PR)***

Marianas Writers Movement to host write-in

The Marianas Writers Movement is hosting a write-in on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021 as part of National Novel Writing Month, more popularly known as NaNoWriMo, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library from 12:30pm to 3pm. We will have raffle prizes and word wars. Bring your laptop or notebook. We'll also take time off writing at 2pm for those who want to attend the book launch of former chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, which is also happening at the JKPL. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in November. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Nov. 18, 2021 - Marketing to the Federal Government:** The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company noticed by government buyers.

■ **Nov. 24, 2021 - Responding to Requests for Proposals:** The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

To register visit www.guamptac.com. ***(PR)***

‘New federal travel policy does not affect Korea travel bubble’

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new federal air travel policy that requires all foreign national travelers to be fully vaccinated before entering the United States, including the CNMI and Guam, will have no impact on the Saipan-South Korea travel bubble program, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In a short statement from MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo, she said the new requirement does not affect the CNMI’s travel bubble program because all travelers under the program are already required to be fully vaccinated before coming to the CNMI, on top of providing negative COVID-19 test results prior to boarding their flights.

In addition, upon arrival, these passengers are tested again before being transported to Kensington Hotel Saipan, one of MVA’s hybrid quarantine facilities, where they will remain quarantined for five days while they wait for their results.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, effective Nov. 8, the U.S State Department implemented a new international travel policy where foreign national air travelers to the United States are required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination status prior to boarding an airplane to fly to the United States, with limited exceptions. This means foreign nationals are now required to provide their COVID-19 vaccination record before boarding airlines headed for the entire United States.

Alepuyo

The new policy means that if you are not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, or traveling to the United States on an immigrant visa, you will need to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before you travel by air to the United States from a foreign country.

Some categories of noncitizen, nonimmigrants are exempted from this requirement but, nevertheless, all air passengers aged 2 or older, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, must show a negative result of a COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board any flight to the United States.

To further strengthen protections, unvaccinated travelers—whether U.S. citizens, LPRs, or the small number of excepted unvaccinated foreign nationals—will now need to show documentation of a negative viral test from a sample taken within one day of travel to the United States.

Fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and LPRs are not exempted from the negative test requirement. However, they must provide a negative test from within three days prior to boarding their flight.

In addition, all air passengers will have to sign an attestation certifying the validity of vaccination and testing, and confirming that their contact information is complete and accurate. Falsifying any information could result in criminal penalties and/or fines.

The CDC has determined that, for the purposes of entry into the United States, vaccines accepted will include those FDA approved or authorized, as well as vaccines with an emergency use listing from the World Health Organization.

Nov. 15-19 is National Apprenticeship Week in the CNMI

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nov. 15 to 19 is designated as National Apprenticeship Week in the CNMI, with

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres making this official during a proclamation signing yesterday at the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents conference room.

The proclamation comes at a good time as the CNMI Department of Labor, NMC, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and the CNMI Public School System are in the process of building a registered apprenticeship program that will build a highly-skilled and diverse workforce in the CNMI, and as the CNMI inches closer to the planned phase-out of the CW-1 contract worker program in 2029.

The proclamation itself has provisions that recognizes the vital role that registered apprenticeships play in providing opportunities for the people of the CNMI by allowing apprentices to earn while they learn and setting apprentices on paths to well-paying careers and the ability to advance in those careers.

Other provisions also recognize the ways that registered apprenticeships can address the CNMI’s unique workforce needs and the ways these internships can benefit underserved communities in the CNMI.

Before signing the proclamation, Torres lauded DOL, NMC, NMTI, and PSS for “leading this important work of building a highly-skilled workforce to meet the needs of our community.”

“As we prepare for the end of the CW transition period in 2029, workforce development is everyone’s business, and my administration will continue to be an advocate and a partner in this collaborative effort,” said Torres.

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, acting Education commissioner Eric Magofna, and NMTI chief executive officer Jodina Attao also gave remarks before Torres signed the proclamation.

“One thing I know that we’re good at here in the [CNMI] is coming together, whether it be after a crisis, during a crisis, or even just for *fiesta*. We know how to come together to help each other out, and that’s the beauty of the apprenticeship program,” said Deleon Guerrero. “It’s designed to only work with partnerships between the educational institutions, with our government entities, and our private employers. And the saying ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’ Well, it’s going to take a Commonwealth to prepare a meaningful workforce as 2029 approaches.”

“We all understand the importance of 2029 and beyond. Building the workforce in the CNMI has and continues to be at the forefront of all our goals. ...I’m especially pleased that we can come together to work toward a goal to ensure that we continue to develop a one-stop system that will allow current and future employers, employees, and postsecondary and industry partners the ability to get on the way of education, jobs, and training that will help [apprentices] climb any ladder they desire, whether it be education, in the workforce, or just in life,” said Magofna.

“National Apprenticeship Week does not just celebrate and commemorate a very important part of workforce development, it also calls for action. So with this, we encourage all our stakeholders to take full advantage of this program. ...NMC, NMTI, along with PSS we will continue to do our part to ensure that the goal is met, and that [in] the CNMI we build the local capacity needed to push the CNMI forward,” Magofna added. “This is a very exciting time as we rebuild the workforce after the effects of [COVID-19]. ...NMTI is very excited to be a part of the efforts in providing learning opportunities to young men and women in various crafts and trades so they can have practical training in a particular skill. With apprenticeships, [NMTI] will be able to create flexible training options with a partnership with [the NMC Community Development Institute], and ourselves at NMTI are able to include the employers’ ability to recruit and develop a highly-skilled workforce,” said Attao.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JEAN DOMINE DUMAOANG Petitioner, Vs. ELMER DOMINE CABUS Respondent,) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0280) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO ELMER DOMINE CABUS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 984 P.O. Box 10,000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2021.

/S/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Joe I. Quitugua Petitioner -vs- Haiyan Huang Respondent) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0382) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505122, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Name: Rodrigo Frankie G. Ada
Address: P.O. Box 7279 SVRB
Saipan, 96950
Phone: 287-7637

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Adoption of: **C.S.D – INITIALS ONLY** Minor Children By: **Rodrigo Frankie G. Ada** Petitioner) FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0430) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of October, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-22-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in via email to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *“CUC-RFP-22-004, Supply & Delivery of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation”* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 24, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 16, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Generation Manager via email, richard.cano@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

CNMI sees 11-cent rollback in gas prices

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After weeks of seeing fuel prices rise, the CNMI finally saw a rollback in oil prices yesterday, with Mobil Oil reducing its prices by 11 cents.

Over two weeks since the last increase, Mobil Oil reduced its prices, with its Extra fuel dropping from $ 5.17 a gallon to $5.06. Mobil also dropped its Supreme fuel from $5.62 to $5.51 while its diesel rolled back from $5.43 a gallon to $5.33.

After weeks of seeing fuel prices rise, the CNMI finally saw a rollback, with oil companies reducing their prices by 11 cents.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead in reducing fuel prices early yesterday morning.

Shell Marianas had yet to reduce its prices as of 6:30pm press time but both oil companies typically mirror each other's price changes, so Shell is expected to impose the same reduction today.

According to a 19-year-old Northern Marianas College student, as a working student, an 11-cent reduction is a sigh of relief because every cent counts.

"That extra 11 cents add up when you're driving around every day with classes, work, and on-the-job training. It's like a breath of fresh air to finally see the number roll back a little. I hope it continues to go down from here," she said.

Another motorist, a 47-year-old, said he isn't hopeful yet as he expects the prices to go up in the next few weeks.

"We've already seen this before. They give us hope that we'll start seeing prices go down but the next week or so, it's going to be higher than before. Best believe this is the same thing. I'll gas up now while its down because for sure gas will probably be $6 in the next month or two," he said.

Last Oct, 29, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. increased its Fuel Adjustment Charge due to the international fuel oil prices. As of Nov. 1, the FAC went up from $0.19355 per kWh to $0.23296 per kWh.

5 MORE

From Page 1

CHCC also announced that, as of Nov. 14, there are 49 active cases.

Since Oct. 28, there have been 98 new cases. Of the 98, 71 were identified through contact tracing, 18 through community-based testing, and nine through travel testing.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of two COVID-19-related fatalities, on top of 29 new cases

Also, two COVID-19 positive patients whose deaths were previously reported as COVID-19-related fatalities on Sept. 30, 2021 and Oct. 12, 2021, were subsequently found not to be the result of COVID-19. Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Service Office of Epidemiology and Research has revised the COVID-19-related fatality count to remain at 258.

In related news, during a guest appearance on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' weekly news briefing on the radio, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said she and the CNMI's other health leaders have been in discussions regarding the CNMI's recent increases in community transmissions.

Muña said the community is "armed to fight this" and added that the one previous active hospitalization was a person who was actually put on "observation status." Since Nov. 12, there have been no active hospitalizations.

"We are actively engaging in conversations regarding our current state and how to transition from here. While we indeed have cases rising, we are seeing that this community [is] armed to fight this, and that is a major factor to consider," said Muña. "The one current hospitalization [reported on Nov. 11] is actually on observation status. So [far] we are seeing asymptomatic, symptomatic with mild symptoms, and symptoms that can be treated with COVID-19 treatment."

In the latest fatalities in Guam, the 257th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Nov. 13, 2021. The patient was a 27-year-old female, unvaccinated with underlying health conditions. She was a known COVID-19 positive patient.

The 258th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on Nov. 13, 2021. The patient was an 83-year-old female, unvaccinated with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Oct. 24, 2021.

"More families are experiencing pain and sadness as a result of this virus, and to you, [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], [Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio], and I extend our thoughts and prayers," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC statement. "While too many have suffered tremendous grief, you do not have to grieve alone. United as an island community, we remember those we have lost and work together to prevent more days of sadness like today."

CENTURY

From Page 1

according to Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez last Friday.

Villagomez said these hotels have been designated as quarantine sites due to an increase in the number of individuals being deemed "persons under investigation," or PUIs, and to ensure that the current Kanoa Resort Saipan site remains adequate for the task force's "contact tracing needs."

On the ground floor of Century Hotel is Shirley's Coffee Shop Garapan, which Villagomez said remains open.

When asked if having an open restaurant downstairs and a quarantine site upstairs is a point of concern for him and the task force, Villagomez assured that there will be no engagement or movement among individuals who find themselves placed at Century Hotel. Villagomez added that task force personnel and law enforcement will be present at the temporary quarantine site.

"Yes, Century's open. Shirley's [is] open. The use of Century Hotel is [as] an isolation containment area, so there's no engagement nor movement from the folks that are being quarantined, and we have task force personnel that are present as well as law enforcement. ...Very minimal movements and everything is being controlled and [kept] sterile," said Villagomez.

He reiterated that the designation of Century and Capital hotels as temporary sites was just him and the task force planning ahead. "We're just being proactive, these are not permanent. These are temporary use, and we [anticipate] shifting back to normal numbers," he said.

Century Hotel was used as a quarantine site during the early part of the pandemic in March 2020.

Camacho's co-defendant Nikiti ordered to appear in court today

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has issued a penal summons ordering one of Rep. Vicente Camacho's (D-Saipan) co-defendants in an assault case to appear in court today.

The Superior Court clerk of court issued a penal summons to Tiepo A. Nikiti, 21, ordering him to appear before Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja today at 9am.

Nikiti, who is accused of assaulting Steven Koch last Oct. 29, on Freedom Drive, Chinatown, must appear before the judge or a warrant may be issued for his arrest.

Like the Precinct 3 representative, Nikiti has also been charged with assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

According to the official charging documents filed in court, Nikiti is one of the men accused of helping Camacho assault Koch while Koch was on a walk with his daughter on the evening of Oct. 29.

The other individual who was also accused of assaulting Koch is reportedly a 14-year-old juvenile.

Camacho, 60, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on the evening of Nov. 2, 2021, but he immediately posted $1,250 cash bail and is out of custody.

Due to the assault, Koch reportedly suffered abrasions, bruising, and pain in his head and body from the blows, and was taken to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for examination.

On Nov. 1, Koch, his wife and daughter asked the Superior Court to issue a temporary restraining order prohibiting Camacho, Nikiti, Ignacio "Ike" S. Concepcion, and Fiel Reynaldo Ortiz from engaging in any further physical harm, disturbance, harassment, blocking, threats, and verbal abuse.

On Nov. 12, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued the temporary restraining order and one-year protective order against Camacho, Nikiti, Concepcion, and Ortiz.

The assault incident is believed to have stemmed from a longstanding animosity between Koch and his brother-in-law, Concepcion.

$110M

From Page 1

In his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said that President Joe Biden will sign the bill today (Monday in Washington, D.C.).

He said new investments include $30 million for the Commonwealth Ports Authority to increase airport safety and make these gateways to the CNMI more comfortable and efficient.

He said the $24 million in new funding for water infrastructure is something that he has focused on in his work in Congress. When he first arrived in Washington, D.C., annual funding for the CNMI's water system was less than $1 million, Sablan said.

By enacting changes in the funding formula, Sablan said he was able to raise $88.6 million for the CNMI since then, enabling 24-hour water supply to Saipan.

He said other new investments are the $24 million for highways over the next five years, $7 million for the Marianas public transit system, and eligibility to compete for a pool of $7.5 billion for road projects that focus on climate change and user safety.

The delegate said there will also be $25 million to make broadband more available and more affordable.

He said Marianas families with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level will be eligible for a new $30 per month broadband subsidy and a $100 device subsidy to help connect to the internet.

Shortly after the vote Friday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Sablan to thank him for his leadership and support.

"As the senior representative from the U.S. insular areas, I often take responsibility for bringing island concerns to the speaker, when major legislation is being drafted," the delegate said.

Ross Manglona is 500 Sails' Cultural Maritime Training Center director

Ross S. Manglona is the new director of the Cultural Maritime Training Center of nonprofit group 500 Sails, which is trying to revive the CNMI's maritime tradition.

Born and raised in Saipan, Manglona was appointed to his new position effective Oct. 18, 2021.

According to a 500 Sails news release, Manglona is a highly respected leader who brings 25 years of vocational and educational experience that will continue to propel 500 Sails into the future. He is the son of Raimundo Hocog Manglona and Isabel Songao.

Manglona's leadership experience spans several years as the director of Continuing Education & Workforce Development for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and as dean for the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, where he has been instrumental to both organizations in the planning, implementation, evaluation, and oversight of their programs and curricula. His background provides added value to 500 Sails in lights of its Administration for Native Americans - Social and Economic Development Strategies grant award for the CMTC.

Manglona has worked on a number of grants, including many from a national level with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which enhances 500 Sails' current partnerships and furthers its mission of promoting cultural practices and traditions.

Ross Manglona has his picture taken in front of the 500 Sails office/boatyard in Lower Base.

MARJORIE A. DARIA

Manglona holds a master's degree in General Education from Framingham State College and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and an associate degree in Liberal Arts from the Northern Marianas College.

In addition to his leadership roles, Manglona has also served as a research assistant and teacher on the islands of Tinian and Rota, greatly adding to 500 Sails' reach to its sister islands.

"500 Sails is well on its way to becoming a leading institution of cultural maritime services, and I am ready to face the challenges of the position," said Manglona. "We are choosing to fight to find ways to keep our people invested in its community, to invest in their education here, and be able to work here with well-paying jobs."

Manglona hopes to inspire others along the way as he implements the Taotao Tasi Maritime Career Pathways Project that provides programmatic funding for the CMTC. He is excited to be a part of the 500 Sails team and to initiate the groundwork that 500 Sails co-founders Peter and Emma Perez have written into the ANA-SEDS grant for the CMTC. Through collaboration with NMC, the U.S. Coast Guard, and American Red Cross, a variety of courses will be offered, including vessel operation, merchant mariner, water safety instruction, canoe fabrication and maintenance, and traditional navigation.

"We are excited to welcome Ross to our team at 500 Sails. He brings a unique perspective to our operations, holds deep ties to Rota, and holds a wealth of leadership experience that will add to the mission of our organization" said Emma and Peter Perez.

500 Sails is a 501(c)3 and CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to reviving, promoting, and preserving the maritime cultural traditions of the Mariana Islands through community engagement in canoe cultural values and activities. 500 Sails envisions a healthy thriving native community that has successfully integrated traditional cultural values into modern life.

Further information can be found on the 500 Sails website at https://500sails.org. Manglona can be reached at rmanglona@500Sails.org or (670) 323-7245 (SAIL). ***(PR)***

Hazama is selected as NAVFAC's Pacific Civilian Engineer of the Year

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM— Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific has named Layne Hazama as the NAVFAC Pacific Civilian Engineer of the Year for fiscal year 2022.

"Congratulations to Layne for being chosen as NAVFAC Pacific's 2022 Engineer of the Year," said NAVFAC Pacific Commander Rear Adm. Dean VanderLey. "His leadership role in one of the largest and most complex projects in the history of NAVFAC showcases his engineering expertise, team-player dynamics and aggressive drive in saving the Navy money, but still producing quality work, makes him a great selection. Bravo Zulu to Layne on this elite recognition."

Hazama

Layne is the Leader of the Dry Dock 3 Replacement Design Branch at NAVFAC Pacific, managing dozens of engineers, scientists and contractors currently designing one of the largest and most complex projects in the history of NAVFAC. As the engineer-in-charge, he has stewarded the project through many conceptual alternatives and skillfully facilitated key decisions providing the most cost-effective solutions for constructing a new dry dock while saving the Navy hundreds of millions of dollars in life cycle costs. Layne has embraced his role as the design leader, guiding the project team and engaging stakeholders and other government agencies toward state-of-the-art solutions, while adhering to criteria and functionality.

"Layne is very deserving of this recognition as he stepped up to take on the role of senior design manager for the monumental dry dock replacement project," said his supervisor and NAVFAC Pacific supervisory civil engineer Brandi Castillo. "Faced with the challenge of a highly aggressive design schedule to meet mission need date while still producing a quality design, Layne diligently led the design team through various stages of the project from planning through preliminary design submittals, and is currently tracking for on-schedule final design completion. His selfless dedication to put forth effort far beyond his duties to ensure that this project is successfully executed showcases that he is the best selection for NAVFAC Pacific's 2022 Engineer of the Year."

"I am greatly honored to be selected as NAVFAC Pacific's 2022 Engineer of the Year," said Hazama. "I feel very humbled to have the support of an awesome NAVFAC team leading the way on Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Hawaii."

Hazama is a graduate of Seattle University with a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Structural Engineer in the state of Hawaii and a licensed Civil Engineer in the State of Washington.

Hazama was forwarded to compete for the NAVFAC Engineer of the Year award and potentially for the National Society of Professional Engineer's Federal Engineer of the Year award program. ***(USN)***

All establishments pass sanitary inspections in October

All retail, eating, and drinking establishments in the CNMI that the Environmental Health Disease Prevention recently inspected passed routine inspections, which means not one establishment was ordered closed for serious violations of health and sanitation standards.

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news release yesterday, 24 establishments in all, including two on Rota, obtained Grade A rating, the highest grade that can be obtained during a sanitary inspection.

Classifications for food safety rating for an establishment is Grade A (0-10 demerits), Grade B (11-20 demerits), Grade C (21-30 demerits), and closure/suspension (greater than 30 demerits).

The September results are as follows:

GRADE A: 24 ESTABLISHMENT(S)

1. Sea Logo Dinner Cruise, Marina Cove
2. Terry's Snack Bar, Chalan Kanoa
3. Saipan Seaside Restaurant, Garapan
4. Milosun Restaurant, Garapan
5. Saipan Vegas Snack Bar, Chalan Laulau
6. Panda House Waffles, Garapan
7. Royal Supplies Wholesale, Koblerville
8. August Supermarket Butcher, Garapan
9. Piggy House Restaurant, Chalan Laulau
10. Payless Super Fresh Market, Susupe
11. Annie's Ice Cup, Dandan
12. 99 Cent Supermarket, Garapan
13. Lao Lao Bay The Grill Restaurant, Kagman
14. Jacob's Mart, Chalan Kanoa
15. Tres Maria Market, San Vicente
16. Kuri-Ya Japanese Cuisine, Gualo Rai
17. Diana's BBQ Stand, Dandan
18. D&Q Wholesale, Lower Base
19. RJ's Catering and Snack Bar, Garapan
20. M-II Catering, Koblerville
21. 153 Restaurant, As Terlaje
22. Boo Ga Food, San Vicente

Rota:

1. DK Enterprises Retailer
2. Sinapalo Safeway Retail Store

GRADE B: 10 ESTABLISHMENT(S)

1. Friendly Kitchen, San Jose
2. New Winscos Market, San Roque
3. August Supermarket, Garapan
4. Bitoy BBQ Stand, Garapan
5. Mermaid Milk Tea, Chalan Kanoa

Rota:

1. Da' Wave Restaurant
2. Harvest Market Retail Store
3. 3King's Market
4. Tambayan 670 BBQ Stand
5. J&C Enterprises - Catering - Restaurant

For more information, contact the EHDP office at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email EHDP director John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

2nd round of ASAP grant funding opportunity now open

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will provide CNMI nonprofits, government agencies, and higher education institutions with a second round of grant funding opportunity under the American Såtba-Ammalaw Program. Grant awards are intended for the support of activities that help organizations prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

The next ASAP application deadline is Dec. 20, 2021. CNMI nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and accredited public and 501(c)(3) institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for grant funding and can request up to $20,000 for humanities projects, strategic planning, capacity building, technical support, and other activities related to preparing, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus. CNMI nonprofits with humanities-focused missions or purposes may also request funds for general operating costs.

CNMI groups awarded during the first round of funding include:

■ Inetnun Åmut yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw, or AMUT/SAFEY, $19,443;

■ Pacific Historic Parks, $20,000;

■ 500 Sails, $20,000;

■ Commonwealth Cancer Association, $20,000;

■ NMI Museum of History and Culture, $19,990;

■ Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, $19,834.

"We are pleased to be able to help organizations strengthen their operations, services and programs to effectively adapt to the circumstances created by this pandemic," said Leo Pangelinan, the council's executive director. Awardees will use funds to develop humanities programming, support general operational costs, and implement strategic planning and capacity building activities.

ASAP was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan Initiative.

For more details, visit http://www.nmhcouncil.org/asap, email asap@nmhcouncil.org, call 670-235-4785, or follow the council on Instagram at 670Humanities and Facebook at Northern Marianas Humanities Council. ***(PR)***

Veterans Day

CNMI VETERANS DAY

A Department of Public Safety color guard post the U.S. and CNMI flags during the observance of Veterans Day in the CNMI last Nov. 11, at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park.

Pathways at the American Memorial Park were lined with mini-flags during the observance of Veterans Day last Nov. 11 at the American Memorial Park.

Stanley T. Iakopo, executive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, speaks during the observance of Veterans Day in the CNMI last Nov. 11, at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park. Iakopo advocated for accountability in the CNMI in how it supports the Commonwealth's veterans.

In his speech during the observance of Veterans Day last Nov. 11, at the American Memorial Park, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that town hall meetings to allow veterans to speak and meet with the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs are now in the works for every village on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

In his speech during the observance of Veterans Day last Nov. 11, at the American Memorial Park, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he intends to work with the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs and the Legislature to ensure that the CNMI's veterans are done right by CNMI leadership.

Michael S. Sablan, who is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, was this year's keynote speaker during the observance of Veterans Day last Nov. 11, at the American Memorial Park.

Roman Tudela Jr. leads the singing of the U.S. and CNMI anthems during last week's Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor.

A U.S. Air Force C-17 makes flyover during the observance of Veterans Day last Nov. 11, at the American Memorial Park.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA SANTOS

GUAM VETERANS DAY

An Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 144th Airlift Squadron, piloted by airmen from the 517th AS, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, flies over the Governor's Complex in Adelup, Guam in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021. On Veterans Day, the men and women of Team Andersen paid tribute to the many veterans on island and all around the world.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT. RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER

An Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 144th Airlift Squadron, piloted by airmen from the 517th AS, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, makes a flyover over the Governor's Complex in Adelup, Guam in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT. RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER

Marshall Islands to get $34M Compact funding for government operations

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced Thursday last week that $33,732,400 in Compact of Free Association funding for fiscal yearc2022 for the Republic of the Marshall Islands was approved by the bilateral Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee earlier this year. Comprised of U.S. and RMI officials, the JEMFAC annual meeting, as called for under U.S. Public Law 108-188, was held virtually this year.

"We are pleased to report that [fiscal year] 2022 funding provided for under the Compact has been made available to Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands," said JEMFAC chair and OIA director Nikolao Pula. "For 35 years, the United States and the RMI have been partners under the Compact bringing mutual benefit to both the Marshallese and the American people and Interior is proud to carry out this important responsibility."

The JEMFAC also resolved that the use of Infrastructure Sector assistance would be authorized for preliminary engineering, design, and development of a Project Development Plan for the Roi-Namur to Santo Electric Distribution System Project on Kwajalein Atoll.

The JEMFAC is composed of five members: Pula (U.S. Department of the Interior); vice chair Casten Nemra (RMI Minister of Foreign Affairs); Brenson Wase (RMI Minister of Finance); Dr. Richard Brostrom (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); and Taylor Ruggles (U.S. State Department).

As required under the Compact of Free Association, U.S. Public Law 108-188, the JEMFAC serves to promote the effective use of funding under the Compact agreement. They meet annually to review Compact budgetary spending and determine final funding allocations for each fiscal year. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs administers these funds on behalf of the U.S. government.

Certain financial provisions of the current Compact of Free Association agreement between the RMI and the United States are set to expire in 2023. Bilateral discussions that began in the last administration are continuing in the Biden-Harris administration. ***(PR)***

Nakoa concludes productive meetings in Hawaii

» Discussions touch on Compact negotiations, security and defense, Compact Impact, marine resources protection and management, among other issues

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced Saturday that deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa concluded last week numerous meetings in Hawaii with federal, state, and non-governmental organization representatives where they discussed various topics including negotiations on the Compact of Free Association, the well-being of Compact communities living across the United States, including Hawaii, the effects of climate change across the Pacific, U.S. security interests in the Pacific, and marine and natural resource protection in the insular areas.

Nakoa

"My meetings in Honolulu last week were informative and helpful as we work to advance discussions related to the Compacts of Free Association and other matters central to the mission of the Office of Insular Affairs and the Department of the Interior," said Nakoa. "Our collective success relies on open conversations and a strong partnership among federal, international, state, and non-governmental entities working together on a wide range of projects, including equity, climate change, health, and economic development. I was very encouraged by the opportunity to engage with many of our partners in Hawaii toward a healthy, resilient, open, and free Pacific."

Nakoa was joined in Honolulu by U.S. Ambassador Karen Stewart for informal discussions with Federated States of Micronesia chief negotiator Leo Falcam Jr. to advance discussions related to the ongoing Compact negotiations with FSM. It was the first in-person meeting **at the senior negotiator level** between the United States and the FSM to discuss negotiations under the Compact of Free Association since negotiations began under the previous administration.

Nakoa also met with the following officials and their respective staff to include Hawaii Health and Human Services director Catherine Betts; Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources chair Suzanne Case; U.S. Navy Adm. John C. Aquilino, Indo-Pacific commander; Lt. Col. Eric S. Marshall, Honolulu District commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; We are Oceania executive director Josie Howard; and Office of Insular Affairs' Honolulu office staff. ***(PR)***

GMS students take top places in October PGFC competition

Green Meadow School students took several top places at the October edition of the Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition.

Held as a virtual contest as a precautionary measure against OVID-19, GMS coaches were excited to submit their video entries as new students had registered to take part in the competition for the first time, according to a GMS news release.

The same news release stated that competition activities are picking at GMS as many of the school's middle school students have also begun entering National Junior Speech and Debate Association and Junior International Thespian Society competitions.

3 – 5 DIVISION

Impromptu Group A
1st – Jamie Andrea Palaby
2nd – Anglee Agdoro
3rd – Emmjie Escano

Improptu Group B
3rd – Albert Miguel Santos
4th – Kaiser Manganti
5th – Johanna Elizabeth Sarabia

Readers Forum–Masters Group B
1st – Rayne Angela Roquelara
2nd – Jarl Marcin Mabaquiao
5th – Brielle Malonzo

Readers Forum – Master Group C
3rd – Jasper Alfred Cabaobas
4th – Rhyane Umali

Readers Forum – Masters Group D
2nd Jamie Andrea Palabay
3rd Nicole Tangonan
4th Greatshen Martin
5th Kyle Enrico Padilla

K-2 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation
3rd – Leyland Christopher Duenas

Dramatic Interpretation
1st Roanne Palma
2nd Juliana Ortiz

Readers Forum – Group A
2nd Jadean Bryana Balboa

Readers Forum Group B
5th Joseph Paul Leuma Jr.

Readers Forum Group C
1st Rhussel Umali
2nd Elijah Sansi

Readers Forum Group D
2nd Rhussel Umali
5th Elijah Sansi

CCLHS – Chamorro Reading
2nd James Kisa
3rd Kelsey Rey Aldan
5th Juslynn Mizutani

Readers Forum Group E
1st Paul James Mendoza
3rd Ian Noel Escarcha

Impromptu
1st Autumn D'Ann Pangelinan
2nd Rhussel Umali
3rd Kelsey Ray Aldan
4th Ian Noel Escarcha

Duo
2nd Kiani Delos Reyes and Jaydn Palacios
3rd John Rafael Aguon and Jade Haven Quindoza

For more information about GMS, call 235-2185, email info@greenmeadowschool.net, or visit its main campus in Chalan Kiya past Saipan Health Clinic. ***(PR)***

Tinian Democratic Party chair Kiyoshi vows to ensure Tinian will fully support Tina Sablan

Tinian Democratic Party chair Jose Kiyoshi has assured that he will work hard to ensure that the people of Tinian will stand with them in full support with Rep. Christina E. Sablan as their candidate in the November 2022 general elections.

"I believed that Tina would make the best candidate for the Democrats and I echo the party's sentiments on how she is someone our people can trust," said Kiyoshi in a statement.

NMI Democratic Party secretary Luella Marciano said that after so many years of having men take the lead in running the islands, it's time people give women a chance.

Marciano said she was impressed when she ran alongside Sablan in last year's midterm elections for the House of Representatives Precinct 2. She said she learned a lot from Sablan and knows that Sablan is capable of running the government.

"She's educated, hardworking, and a lot of people look up to her because she's an advocate for us all," Marciano said.

Stephen Woodruff, who is a member of the NMI Democratic Party's Central Executive Committee, said that Sablan's first name, Tina, stands for "Trustworthy, Independent, Natural, and Accountable."

James Cabrera, also a member of the Central Executive Committee, said "In Tina we trust."

The 18 members of the Central Executive Committee unanimously approved the recommendation of the Gubernatorial Search Committee to select Tina Sablan and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan as their candidates for governor and delegate, respectively. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PALAU-UOG PARTNERSHIP

On Oct. 19, Palau Minister of Education Dale Jenkins signs a first-time partnership among the Palau Ministry of Education, Palau Community College, and the University of Guam that will make bachelor's degrees in elementary education with a specialization in special education attainable in Palau. Looking on are, left, Raynold Mechol, director of the Bureau of Education Administration with the Palau Ministry of Education, and Carlos Taitano, director of the Global Learning & Engagement department at the University of Guam.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Twenty-five public school teachers tune into classes at the University of Guam on Oct. 20 from Palau Community College. Having already earned their associate degrees from PCC, they began coursework this semester to earn their bachelor's degrees in elementary education with a specialization in special education. They are expected to graduate in fall 2023. The arrangement is possible through a first-time partnership among the two institutions and the Palau Ministry of Education.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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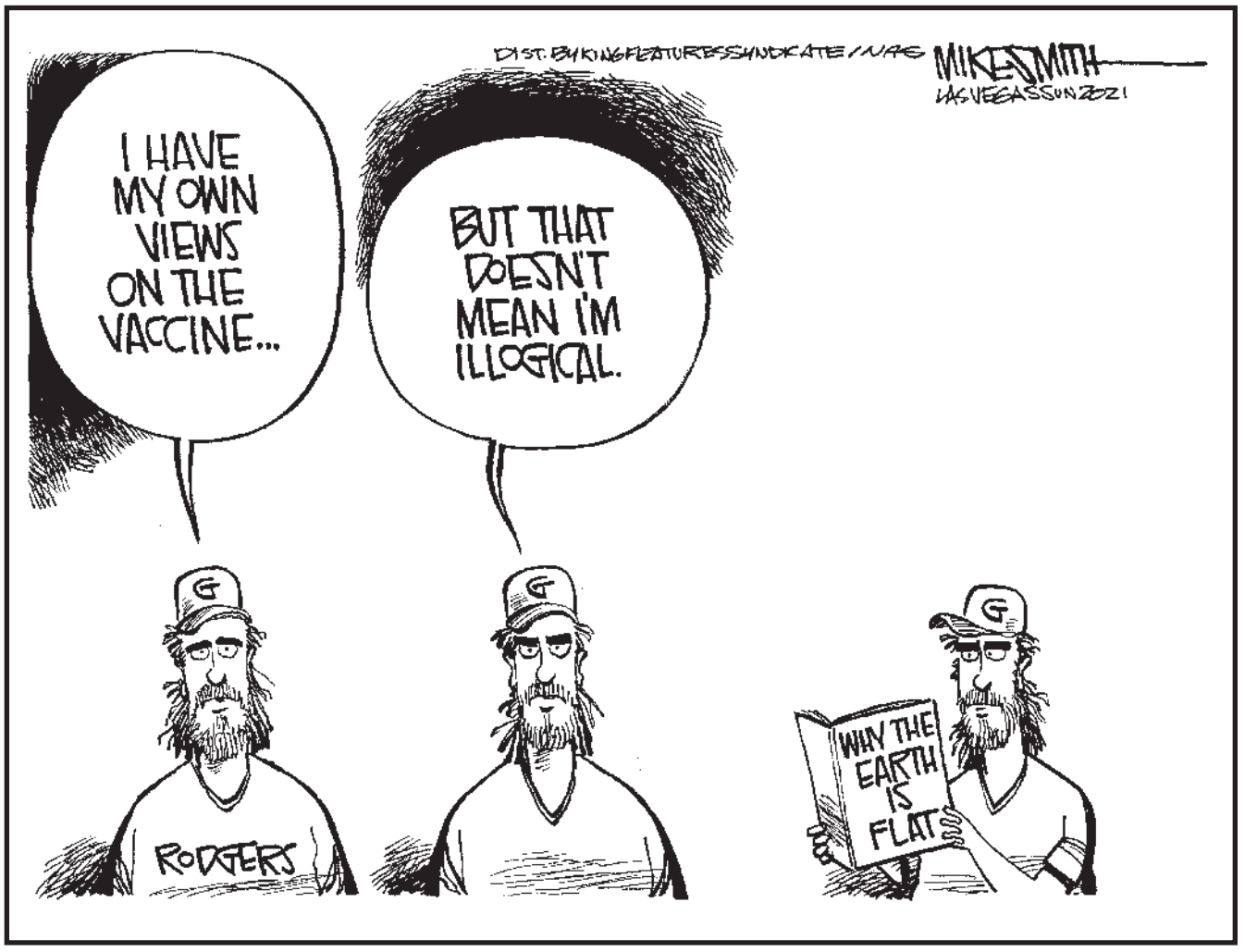
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MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2021
I HAVE MY OWN VIEWS ON THE VACCINE...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M ILLOGICAL.
RODGERS
WHY THE EARTH IS FLAT

EDITORIAL

Blame will fall on Biden and Democrats unless economic turnaround comes quickly

The 12-month inflation rate through October reached 6.2%, its highest level since the George H.W. Bush administration in the early 1990s. Bush was the president whose failure to recognize the political impact of rising prices and sluggish wages inspired one Democratic strategist's retort, "It's the economy, stupid." Even though Bush led the nation through a triumphant invasion of Panama and the lightning ouster of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, economic underperformance undercut his 1992 re-election bid. Future presidents never forgot the importance of keeping the economy humming regardless of whatever else is happening in the world.

President Joe Biden should remember that lesson as inflation continues to soar, largely driven by gasoline pump prices and supply chain problems that are preventing products from reaching shelves. Inflation also normally is driven by too much money chasing too few goods, which is another key point for Biden to consider as he prepares to sign a $1.2 trillion infrastructure bill and continues pushing for a $1.85 trillion social spending bill. The injection of $3 trillion dollars into an economy that's still digesting an infusion of $2.6 trillion from pandemic relief measures threatens to throw fuel on an already raging inflation fire.

Even if Biden, who turns 79 on Nov. 20, has no intention of seeking reelection, congressional midterm elections are now less than a year away. The clock is running out for him to start showing results or risk dragging Democratic candidates down with his own sagging support ratings. Maintaining control of Congress is particularly important as Democrats work to complete their investigation of the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection and potentially hold former President Donald Trump accountable for his role. Speculation is running high that, if given the majority, the GOP might even seek Biden's impeachment as a tit-for-tat response to Democrats' two impeachment proceedings against Trump.

Biden has no more ability to unclog ports or control OPEC oil price manipulation than did President George W. Bush when a similar pump price spike occurred in 2008. Regardless, Biden will be targeted for blame as 2022 campaigning heats up.

American consumers, who also are voters, don't want to hear excuses and historical explanations. What they see in the supermarket are rapidly escalating prices for bread, meat, milk and eggs. They can't buy the cars and gadgets they want. What once seemed like a generous gesture when major employers voluntarily raised wages to $15 an hour now is starting to look woefully inadequate.

Biden could mimic the disastrous program of another one-term president, Gerald Ford, whose solution after an Arab oil embargo was a national cheerleading campaign called Whip Inflation Now. Or he can draw from the successful economic management policies of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. But whatever he does, he's got less than 12 months to produce results strong enough to convince voters that his party knows what it's doing.

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The next hospital crisis is coming. Let's hope the US is prepared

By CARMEN BLACK
Los Angeles Times

Carmen Black is an assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale University.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed devastating cracks in the foundation of U.S. health care. Hospitals were unprepared for enormous challenges to staffing, resulting from burnout and absences caused by the medical and psychological costs of the coronavirus.

There is another emerging crisis that could catch us again unprepared and last for decades: hospital emergencies stemming from dementia.

As the baby boomer population ages, more Americans will need hospitalizations and suffer from dementia. An estimated 1 in 3 seniors die with the condition.

Older patients, particularly those with dementia, can become very confused and agitated when critically ill. They may sometimes act in ways that risk immediate harm to themselves or others, called a "behavioral emergency" in hospital medicine. Unlike security threats, this conduct typically lacks criminal intent and is caused by serious disease and dementia.

Nonetheless, these kinds of hospital emergencies are generally perceived as "violence" and countered with security force, the same response given to intentional, nonmedical safety threats. This often results in elderly patients being physically restrained while hospitalized. Restraints disrupt and decrease the quality and efficiency of their care—contributing to a financial drain on hospital systems and rising insurance premiums by clogging hospital beds and resources, and hastening provider burnout.

Hospitals already have medical rapid response teams: clinical specialists from multiple fields who are trained to respond together to medical crises, including heart attacks, strokes and lung failures. But shockingly, most hospitals nationwide do not have an emergency protocol to treat behavioral emergencies—whether from psychiatric illness, dementia agitation or medical disorientation—any differently than they would confront security threats. Instead of having access to psychiatric equivalents of medical rapid response teams, most care providers can only respond to behavioral emergencies by seeking security assistance.

That means calling in uniformed police and security specialists to suppress an agitated patient, who may be having a medical or dementia-related episode. Security-only responses do not provide clinical specialists to treat the medical causes of patient confusion and distress, including dementia. Uniformed officers can also trigger more fear in patients.

Yet there are well-researched, patient-centered protocols for handling behavioral emergencies. These approaches are just not prioritized in the United States.

Psychiatric equivalents to medical rapid response teams, frequently called behavioral emergency response teams, or BERTs, prioritize patient-centered care and provider safety by immediately mobilizing a team of specialists. Their first step is minimizing patient and provider injury through de-escalation. Hospitals might use psychiatric specialists if they have them available, but many successful BERT models de-escalate with non-psychiatric nurses, social workers, chaplains and others, maximizing staffing options.

As patients become calmer, primary hospital teams begin the second step of investigating the medical reasons contributing to their distress. While security staff still accompany BERT calls, they take a backseat to the clinicians and often don't interact with patients at all. And because these teams can be formed with existing resources and cross-trained staff, BERTs need not add costs to care.

The key here isn't the exact BERT model used, but correctly perceiving behavioral emergencies as clinical opportunities for primary hospital teams to provide the care they are supposed to be delivering in the first place.

Pioneering hospitals across the country have operated their own BERTs for decades, and British Columbia started using psychiatric rapid response teams throughout the Canadian province more than 20 years ago. In the U.S., however, health care systems and providers tend to stigmatize behavioral emergencies as forms of violence, rather than recognizing them as medical situations that demand appropriate, ethical care for sick, vulnerable patients. At Yale New Haven Hospital, for instance, cognitive impairment such as dementia is a common diagnosis in behavioral emergency codes, evident in 73% of such cases from June 2017 to June 2018.

American hospitals should be preparing for the foreseeable challenges of dementia. We cannot entirely stop all the costs and consequences of this coming wave. But we can learn from our northern neighbors in British Columbia and hospitals around the country and adopt one essential solution for behavioral emergencies: response teams that respect and protect patients and health care providers.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Give preventative justice a chance

By BENJAMIN VAN ROOIJ and ADAM FINE
Progressive Perspectives

People want justice. They demanded that Derek Chauvin be punished for killing George Floyd. They wanted Harvey Weinstein to go to jail for sexually assaulting Jessica Mann and Miriam Haleyi. And they wanted the Sackler family, as owners of OxyContin producer Purdue Pharma, to face consequences for their role in the opioid epidemic.

In the wake of each injustice, we want those responsible to face consequences for their actions, and rightly so: bad actors need to be held accountable.

Our legal system is designed around punishment by offering a set of rules and procedures to assign responsibility and liability for harmful behavior. But, as the existence of the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements have made clear, punitive laws neither deter crime nor truly deliver justice.

In reality, we have a very limited sense of justice. Popular and legal views of justice tend to dwell on the past, with the core objective being to ensure that those who have harmed others face consequences for their actions.

True justice does not solely look at the past; it also focuses on the future. It is not just about reacting to past misdeeds, but also preventing future damage and victimization.

We need to establish preventative justice in our legal system. And to do so, we must also learn what conditions cause certain types of crime to occur and how we can prevent those crimes from happening again.

This requires fundamentally different expertise and skills than are now present in our legal system. Lawyers are experts in understanding the rules and procedures of assigning liability for harm. But they know virtually nothing about the root causes of criminal behavior and ways to address them.

The good news is that science is on our side. And its findings are quite revolutionary. For most wrongdoings, stronger punishment alone will not help. Rather than punishment, behavior is driven more by people's intrinsic motivations, how they respond to others, their own morals and how they view the legitimacy of the legal system.

Another core finding is that the situation people are in matters. Criminal behavior is much more likely when people lack socioeconomic opportunities or when they have limited self-control.

There are solid examples of when preventative justice has worked. Cincinnati changed its policies and used a holistic, preventative approach that combined punishment with employment support and community pressure. The rate of gang member-involved homicides in the city dropped by as much as 41% in three and a half years.

Another successful approach is the so-called situational crime prevention strategy. Rather than focusing on figuring out the right punishment, the core objective is to make the damaging behavior more difficult. Speed bumps are a prime example, as they physically make speeding impossible, without the need of traffic police or punishment threats. Or consider how U.K. authorities set out to design unbreakable beer glasses to reduce injuries from glassings, situations where drunk customers use broken beer glass shards as weapons in bar fights.

Preventative justice is uncomfortable. It makes us look beyond our feelings of retribution. It forces us to try and understand what may not be understandable. And it will mean that we need to thoroughly rethink and reform our legal system.

But to truly prevent the next police brutality, the next sexual assault and the next devastating corporate scandal, these are but small sacrifices.

Benjamin van Rooij is a law professor of law and society at the University of Amsterdam and at the University of California, Irvine. Adam Fine is an assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at Arizona State University. They are the authors of the forthcoming book The Behavioral Code: The Hidden Ways the Law Makes Us Better or Worse*. This column was produced for* The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Child care proposal's hidden consequences

By RICH LOWRY
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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

President Joe Biden wants to bring the same discerning, common-sensical governing style to American child care that has his job approval rating in the low 40s.

In other words, look out below.

The child care proposal that House Democrats have written into Biden's Build Back Better "human infrastructure" bill may be the worst feature of the nearly $2-trillion legislation, and that's saying something.

It is high-handed and prescriptive, constitutes a new front in the culture war via an expanding welfare state, will likely increase the costs for middle-class and upper-middle-class parents, and may have an unconstitutional provision to boot.

The proposal reflects the preferences of two-earner, professional couples in the Acela corridor inclined toward expensive, formal, all-day child care, and would make a large step toward enshrining them as the national norm.

There is no doubt that there is a significant demand for child care. Roughly half of married and single moms with children under 5 work full-time, and about 40% of working moms pay for child care. But it's a mistake to believe that all parents want to be in the work force, with their kids in standardized child care programs.

According to a 2019 Gallup poll, 50% of mothers of children under age 18 would prefer to stay at home taking care of family over having a job. A survey from the populist think tank American Compass found that 53% of married mothers prefer the model of one parent working and one parent staying at home in families with children under age 5.

Those parents who have to work or choose to work use all sorts of child care options, from relatives to smaller home-based day cares, to non-profit or for-profit day care centers.

There is a pronounced class divide here. As Patrick Brown of the Ethics and Public Policy Center points out, white children of parents who don't have a college degree spend most of their hours per week with their parents; only 30% of children with college-educated parents do the same.

What the Democratic proposal would do is put an enormous thumb on the scale toward for-profit centers. It would pour hundreds of billions of dollars, not into supporting the varying choices of parents, but into pushing the current archipelago of diverse options into a one-size-fits-all system defined by the government.

The proposal would boost the pay of child care workers significantly, seeking to make it equivalent to elementary school teachers, and add new regulations best sustained by for-profit centers. It would thus bring the progressive model of constricted supply leading to increased cost that characterizes the housing, education and health care sectors to child care.

The left-wing policy analyst Matt Bruenig caused a stir when he warned of spiraling costs from higher pay and new regulations. He noted that the proposal's subsidies to families are phased-in based on income. This means that, depending on the proposal's final design, unsubsidized families could be exposed to increased costs without getting additional government help. He cited the hypothetical of a dual-earning family that feels the squeeze of increased costs, so one spouse quits to lessen the household's income and qualify for subsidies.

"Normally people who quit jobs to take care of their kids do so in order to save the money they'd have to spend on child care," he wrote. "Under this plan, they have to quit their job in order to afford child care!"

On top of this, the House proposal prohibits government funds to upgrade child care facilities from being spent on facilities "used primarily for sectarian instruction or religious worship." This is a clear shot across the bow of church-based child care, one unlikely to pass muster with the Supreme Court.

Biden's presidency so far has been a long exercise in ideologically driven governance removed from reality. The child care proposal is no different.

A chance for more worker power

By JENNIFER DORNING
Progressive Perspectives

Jennifer Dorning is president of the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO. This column was produced for The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Workers across the country are unsatisfied with their subpar employment arrangements and many feel empowered to do something about it.

While some are quitting their jobs, others are using collective power to create lasting change. Last month, which came to be known as "Striketober," workers across the country joined picket lines and threatened to walk off the job in response to stagnant wages, long hours and poor working conditions.

One big reason San Antonio Symphony musicians, film and television professionals and John Deere workers have been so effective at exercising workplace power is their union membership. Unions provide the infrastructure, organization and unified front needed to execute large-scale collective action.

As a union, employees also gain additional workplace rights, including the right to negotiate collectively with their employer over pay, benefits and working conditions.

However, far too many U.S. workers are not union members; even though they face many of the same workplace issues, they lack the support and power necessary to take meaningful action. Now's the time: Striketober presents a unique opportunity for more employees to organize unions and earn fair compensation.

More than two-thirds of Americans approve of unions—a 50-year high water mark—and new groups of employees have realized their workplace power in recent years. Waves of organizing from digital journalists, tech workers, and nonprofit employees helped professional union membership hit an all-time high last year at 6.3 million members.

These new union workers are both changing the face of the labor movement and rethinking what can be won with a union contract. Union members at The Intercept used their collective power to negotiate a hiring provision, similar to the NFL's Rooney Rule, that requires at least two candidates from underrepresented backgrounds be interviewed for open positions.

As many young professionals continue to be saddled with large amounts of student debt, union nonprofit employees at the statewide policy advocacy organization Every Texan bargained for a monthly student loan stipend. Employers moving jobs overseas is a major concern in the tech industry. To address this, Google contract workers employed by HCL America in Pittsburgh secured contract language that protects their jobs from offshoring. The deal required a number of union jobs to be located in Pittsburgh.

Still, union membership among U.S. workers remains low at just above 11 percent. Given the strong popularity of unions, there would likely be far more unionized workplaces if U.S. labor law had stronger protections for workers.

That's why we need the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which includes enforceable penalties for employers who break the law, expanded collective bargaining rights for workers and access to fair elections. It would rebalance the power dynamic between employees and employers.

President Biden said he supports this legislation and the House passed it on a bipartisan basis, but the bill is held up in the Senate, where 60 votes are needed to overcome a filibuster.

While Striketober may be over, we have a chance to turn its energy and attention into action that can make a difference every month of the year. As working people, we must take advantage of this moment by forming more unions and getting our labor agenda through Congress.

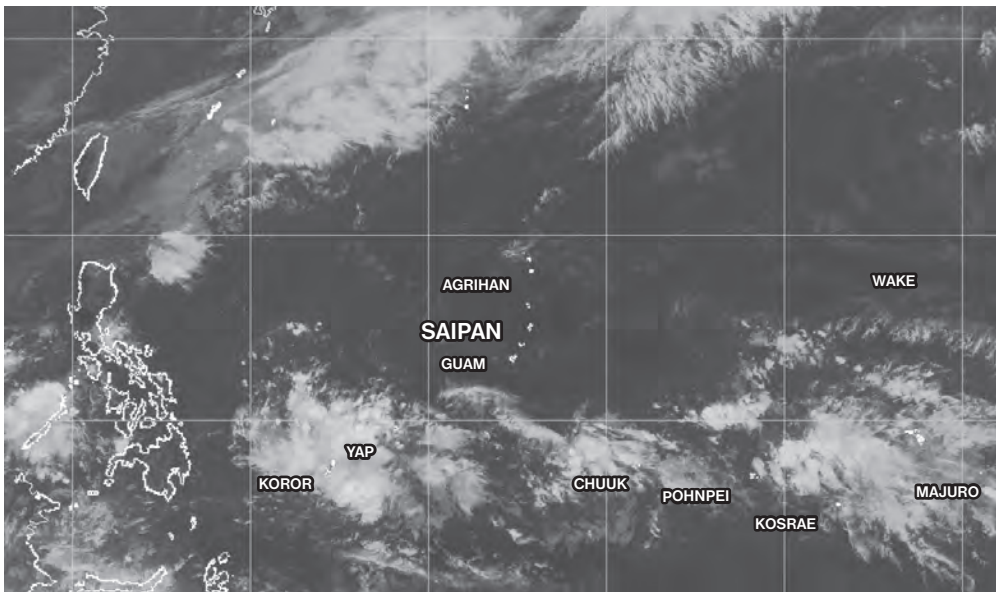
I look forward to a November full of organizing.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Breezy. Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
85° / 77°	85° / 77°	88° / 77°	88° / 77°	88° / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:29 PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East trade-winds and a few showers were over the Marianas this morning. The relatively dry weather will continue through this evening. A surface trough will bring wet weather late night through Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:33 AM	3:48 PM
Wednesday	-	4:21 AM	4:23 PM
Thursday	-	5:09 AM	5:00 PM
Friday	-	5:57 AM	5:39 PM
Saturday	-	6:48 AM	6:21 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	48° / 28°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 73°
London	Cloudy	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	64° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 71°
New York	Mostly Sunny	50° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 36°
Rome	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	63° / 44°
San Francisco	Rain	58° / 50°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 34°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	57° / 43°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	53° / 43°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:08 AM	Low Tide	0.30
6:04 AM	High Tide	1.44
11:46 AM	Low Tide	0.55
5:49 PM	High Tide	1.77

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

White House confident Biden's bill will pass House this week

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's top economic adviser expressed confidence Sunday that the White House's $1.85 trillion domestic policy package will quickly pass the House this week and said approval couldn't come at a more urgent time as prices of consumer goods spike.

"Inflation is high right now. And it is affecting consumers in their pocketbook and also in their outlook for the economy," said Brian Deese, director of the National Economic Council.

"This, more than anything, will go at the costs that Americans face," he said, before adding that the House will consider the legislation this coming week. "It will get a vote, it will pass."

The House has been moving toward approval of the massive Democrat-only-backed bill even as the measure faces bigger challenges in the Senate, where Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., have insisted on reducing its size.

In a letter Sunday to Democratic colleagues, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., counseled "time and patience" for working through a bill of this size.

Director of the National Economic Council Brian Deese speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Sept. 8, 2021. AP

Consumer prices have soared 6.2% over the last year, the biggest 12-month jump since 1990. Deese acknowledged that prices may not fully return to a more normal 2% level until next year due to the lingering effects of COVID-19, but he said the measure will go a long way toward "lowering costs for American families."

"We're confident this bill, as it moves through the process, is going to be fully paid for, and not only that, it's actually going to reduce deficits over the long term," he said.

Biden on Monday planned to sign a related $1 trillion infrastructure bill, a bipartisan effort that was passed earlier this month after the president and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., pledged action on Biden's broader package expanding health, child, elder care and climate change by mid-November.

House progressives had threatened to hold up the infrastructure bill without a firm commitment of immediate action on the broader package.

House centrists say they will vote for the package as early as this week if an upcoming Congressional Budget Office analysis affirms White House estimates that the bill is fully paid for. The measure would be covered with changes to corporate taxes, such as a new corporate minimum tax, while raising taxes on higher-income people.

On Friday, Pelosi wrote Democratic members reaffirming her plan to push ahead soon, noting that CBO estimates released so far on pieces of the plan have been consistent with White House projections.

Former New Orleans mayor Landrieu to manage Biden's $1T plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden has chosen as supervisor of his $1 trillion infrastructure plan Mitch Landrieu, who as New Orleans mayor pushed the city into recovery after the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

Landrieu

Landrieu will be tasked with coordinating across federal agencies to work on roads, ports, bridges and airports, the White House said Sunday. Biden is expected to sign the infrastructure bill into law on Monday.

Landrieu, 61, was formerly the Louisiana lieutenant governor and took over as mayor of New Orleans in 2010, five years after Katrina swamped the city and as the area's recovery stalled—and as a massive BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico polluted the state's coastline. He secured billions in federal funding for roads, schools parks and infrastructure, and turned New Orleans "into one of America's great comeback stories," the White House said in a statement.

"I am thankful to the president and honored to be tasked with coordinating the largest infrastructure investment in generations," Landrieu said in the statement. "Our work will require strong partnerships across the government and with state and local leaders, business and labor to create good-paying jobs and rebuild America for the middle class."

When Landrieu was mayor, he gained national recognition when he removed four Jim Crow-era monuments from the New Orleans landscape, including statues of three Confederate icons.

Landrieu launched the E Pluribus Unum Fund in 2018, which aims to break barriers of race and class by cultivating leaders who can build common ground.

The infrastructure package is a historic investment by any measure, one that Biden compares in its breadth to the building of the interstate highway system in the last century or the transcontinental railroad the century before. He called it a "blue-collar blueprint to rebuilding America."

Buttigieg's star rises as $1T Biden agenda shifts toward him

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pete Buttigieg, the transportation secretary who holds the purse strings to much of President Joe Biden's $1 trillion infrastructure package, was holding forth with reporters on its impact—the promise of more electric cars, intercity train routes, bigger airports—when a pointed question came.

Buttigieg

How would he go about building racial equity into infrastructure?

The 39-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and 2020 Democratic presidential candidate laid out his argument that highway design can reflect racism, noting that at least $1 billion in the bill will help reconnect cities and neighborhoods that had been racially segregated or divided by road projects.

"I'm still surprised that some people were surprised when I pointed to the fact that if a highway was built for the purpose of dividing a white and a Black neighborhood... that obviously reflects racism," he said.

Racial equity is an issue where Democratic priorities and Buttigieg's future align. One of his greatest shortcomings as a White House candidate was his inability to win over Black voters. How he navigates that heading into the 2022 midterms will probably shape the fortunes of Biden's agenda and the Democratic Party, if not his own prospects.

At the climate summit in Scotland, Buttigieg stood for almost a dozen interviews as he promoted provisions of Biden's bill that would build a network of electric vehicle charging stations. He also engaged with young climate activists and took photos with former President Barack Obama.

On racism in roadways, he said simply: "I don't know who it hurts to acknowledge that harm was done and to propose doing something to fix it."

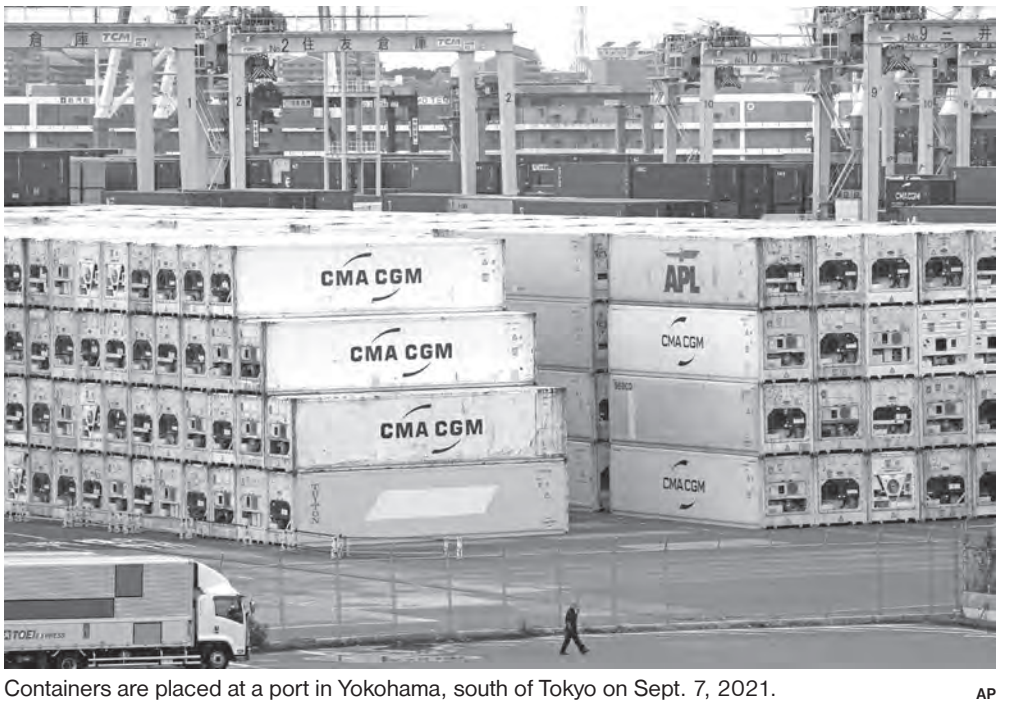
His department later announced it would grant extra discretionary aid to help as many as 20 U.S. communities remove portions of interstates, redesign rural main streets and repurpose former rail lines. That could help places from Syracuse, New York, where many residents back a plan to tear down portions and build a walkable grid, to racially divided areas in New Orleans and St. Paul, Minnesota.

As Biden prepares to sign the infrastructure bill on Monday, eyes are turning to the man still best known as "Mayor Pete," a newcomer whose promise of "generational change" and real-world sensibility of fixing potholes launched him to the top of the early Democratic primary contests during the 2020 campaign.

Quickly endorsing Biden after abandoning the race, Buttigieg now stands to become one of the more powerful brokers in Washington, handling the largest infusion of cash into the transportation sector since the 1950s creation of the interstate highway system.

"Armed with that much money and significant latitude in how to spend it, Buttigieg is poised to be the most influential secretary of transportation ever," said Jeff Davis, a senior fellow at the Eno Center for Transportation. The department was founded in 1967.

Japan's economy contracts on shrinking consumption, exports



Containers are placed at a port in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on Sept. 7, 2021. AP

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy shrank at a 3% annual rate in the July-September quarter, as private consumption and auto production took a hit from efforts to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

Japan's gross domestic product, which measures the value of a nation's products and services, declined 0.8% from the previous quarter, the Cabinet Office said Monday.

The annualized rate is how much the economy would have grown or contracted had the one-quarter rate continued for a year.

The world's third largest economy grew 0.4% in April-June and shrank 1.1% in January-March.

Japan has never had a coronavirus lockdown. But it has periodically asked businesses to close or limit hours under "states of emergency." It has also encouraged social distancing.

That has crimped consumption and private investment. Private consumption sank 1.1% in July-September from the previous quarter, according to Monday's data.

A shortage of computer chips and other parts necessary for vehicle production has been a serious problem for months because of lockdowns in Asian nations that produce them.

Japanese automakers' production and sales have suffered. But once the situation in Southeast Asia eases, production is expected to rebound in the months ahead. Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, said recently that production is likely to return to normal next month.

The preliminary and seasonally adjusted real GDP data also showed exports sank 2.1% in the July-September period from the previous quarter.

The government has been attempting to keep infections down while keeping the economy going.

Nation

Thousands of military families struggle with food insecurity

A volunteer loads food into a car at an Armed Services YMCA food distribution, Oct. 28, 2021, in San Diego. AP

SAN DIEGO (AP)—It's a hidden crisis that has existed for years inside one of the most well-funded institutions on the planet and has only worsened during the coronavirus pandemic. As many as 160,000 active-duty military members are having trouble feeding their families.

That estimate by Feeding America, which coordinates the work of more than 200 food banks around the country, underscores how long-term food insecurity has extended into every aspect of American life, including the military.

The exact scope of the problem is a topic of debate, due to a lack of formal study. But activists say it has existed for years and primarily affects junior-level enlisted service members—ranks E1 to E4 in military parlance—with children.

"It's a shocking truth that's known to many food banks across the United States," said Vince Hall, Feeding America's government relations officer. "This should be the cause of deep embarrassment."

The group estimates that 29% of troops in the most junior enlisted ranks faced food insecurity during the previous year.

"It is what it is," said James Bohannon, 34, a Naval E4 (petty officer third class) in San Diego who relies on food assistance to keep his two daughters fed.

"You know what you're signing up for in the military," he said, after emerging from a drive-thru food distribution organized by the local Armed Services YMCA branch. "But I'm not going to lie. It's really tough."

In addition to modest pay for junior enlisted ranks, the frequent moves inherent to military life make it difficult for military spouses to find steady work. Also, the internal military culture of self-sufficiency leaves many reluctant to speak about their difficulties, for fear they will be regarded as irresponsible.

The problem is exacerbated by an obscure Agriculture Department rule that prevents thousands of needy military families from accessing the SNAP government assistance program, commonly known as food stamps.

"It's one of these things that the American people don't know about, but it's a matter of course among military members. We know this," said Sen. Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat and former Blackhawk pilot who lost both legs in a helicopter crash in Iraq. "We're the mightiest military on the face of the earth and yet those who are on the lower rung of our military ranks are—if they are married and have a child or two—they're hungry. How can you focus on carrying out the mission and defending our democracy. If you're worried about whether or not your kid gets dinner tonight?"

Meredith Knopp, CEO of a food bank in St. Louis and an Army veteran, said the problem cuts across all branches of the military. She recalls being a young officer in Texas when she was approached by a new private with a baby.

"They were getting ready to turn off his electricity because he couldn't pay his bills," she said. "It was shocking to me."

Perhaps the best indication of how entrenched the problem has become is that a robust network of military-adjacent charitable organizations such as the Armed Services YMCA and Blue Star Families has developed an infrastructure of food banks near most major domestic bases.

After final word from attorneys, Rittenhouse jury takes over

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—Attorneys were set to make closing arguments Monday at Kyle Rittenhouse's trial in the shootings of three men during street unrest in Wisconsin, the last word before a jury begins deliberating in a case that underscored Americans' bitter divisions on issues of guns, protests and policing.

Rittenhouse, 18, of Antioch, Illinois, faces charges ranging from intentional homicide—punishable by life in prison—to an underage weapons charge that could mean a few months in jail if convicted.

Rittenhouse, 17 at the time, traveled the few miles from his home across the state border to Kenosha on Aug. 25, 2020, as the city was in the throes of damaging protests that followed a white police officer's shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, after a call to a domestic disturbance.

Bystander video captured the critical minutes when Rittenhouse, with a Smith and Wesson AR-style semiautomatic rifle, shot and killed Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26, and wounded Gaige Grosskreutz, 27.

ACROSS THE NATION

Washington seeks over $38 billion from opioid distributors

SEATTLE (AP)—Having rejected a half-billion-dollar settlement offer, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson is taking the state's case against the nation's three biggest drug distributors to trial Monday, saying they must be held accountable for their role in the opioid crisis. But his gamble isn't without risk, as a loss by three California counties in a similar case this month demonstrates. Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter Wilson issued a tentative ruling Nov. 1 that the counties, plus the city of Oakland, had not proven the pharmaceutical companies used deceptive marketing to increase unnecessary opioid prescriptions and create a public nuisance.

Trial to start for man charged with killing 18 in Texas

DALLAS (AP)—A man charged with killing 18 older women in Dallas and its suburbs over a two-year span is set to go on trial in one of the deaths Monday. Billy Chemirmir, 48, faces life in prison without parole if convicted of capital murder in the death of 81-year-old Lu Thi Harris. Prosecutors decided not to seek the death penalty. Chemirmir was arrested in March 2018 after 91-year-old Mary Annis Bartel survived an attack by a man who forced his way into her apartment at a senior living community in Plano. The man told her "don't fight me" as he tried to smother her with a pillow and left with jewelry. When police tracked Chemirmir to his nearby apartment the next day, he was holding jewelry and cash. A jewelry box police say he had just thrown away led them to a Dallas home, where Harris was dead in her bedroom, lipstick smeared on her pillow. After his arrest, authorities announced they would review hundreds of deaths, signaling the possibility that a serial killer had been stalking older people. Over the following years, the number of people Chemirmir was accused of killing grew.

9-year-old Dallas boy dies after Astroworld festival crush

HOUSTON (AP)—A 9-year-old Dallas boy has become the youngest person to die from injuries sustained during a crowd surge at the Astroworld music festival in Houston. Ezra Blount of Dallas died Sunday at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, family attorney Ben Crump said.

Ezra was placed in a medically induced coma after suffering serious injuries in the Nov. 5 crush of fans during a performance by the festival's headliner, rapper Travis Scott. He is the 10th person who attended the festival to die. "The Blount family tonight is grieving the incomprehensible loss of their precious young son," Crump said in a news release Sunday night. "This should not have been the outcome of taking their son to a concert, what should have been a joyful celebration." Treston Blount, Ezra's father, described what happened Nov. 5 in a post on a GoFundMe page that he set up to help defray Ezra's medical expenses. He said Ezra was sitting on his shoulders when a crowd surge crushed them. The father lost consciousness and when he came to, Ezra was missing, Blount said. A frantic search ensued until Ezra was eventually found at the hospital, severely injured.

Rare November tornadoes hit Connecticut, Rhode Island

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Three tornadoes that hit Rhode Island and southeast Connecticut this weekend were the first since at least 1950 to strike the area in November, the National Weather Service said Sunday. The service confirmed the three tornadoes touched down Saturday evening. An EF-1 hit near Stonington, and Westerly, Rhode Island; an EF-0 hit in North Kingstown, Rhode Island; and another EF-0 touched down near Plainfield, and Foster, Rhode Island. Representatives from the service were in the region Sunday to investigate damage. No deaths or injuries were reported. "Since 1950, there has never been a tornado recorded in CT or RI in the month of November," the NWS tweeted. "MA last recorded a November tornado on 11/07/1971."

Mar-a-Lago-trespasser deported to China 2 years later

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A Chinese businesswoman convicted of trespassing at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and lying to Secret Service agents was deported over the weekend, federal authorities said, more than two years after serving her sentence. Yujing Zhang was turned over to immigration officials in December 2019 after serving her eight-month sentence. But she was held at the Glades County Detention Center for three times as long as her prison term mainly because of deportation delays during the COVID-19 pandemic, immigration authorities told the Miami Herald. At the time of her sentencing, the then 33-year-old Zhang went to Mar-a-Lago "to meet the president and family and just make friends." When an incredulous judge questioned her about whether she thought she could really meet the Trumps, Zhang laughed loudly and said she hoped to meet other people, too. Zhang then told U.S. District Judge Roy Altman that the president told reporters that he had invited Zhang to Mar-a-Lago. But Altman said that was another lie. It's unclear what Zhang's motives were, but the judge said it was clearly about more than getting a photo opportunity.

Woman arrested for punching Southwest Airlines worker

DALLAS (AP)—A woman has been arrested after punching a Southwest Airlines employee in the head during boarding for a flight out of a Dallas airport, police said. Arielle Jean Jackson, 32, was arrested Saturday afternoon at Love Field, Dallas police said. Police said Jackson has been charged with aggravated assault. The incident happened during the boarding process for a flight from Dallas to New York's La Guardia Airport, Southwest Airlines spokesman Chris Mainz said. Police said that Jackson first had a verbal altercation with an operations agent at the back of the plane and was asked to exit. As Jackson was exiting, she had another verbal altercation with a second operations agent that turned physical, with Jackson striking the agent on the head with a closed fist, police said.

Asia

Morning haze and smog envelops the skyline in New Delhi, India, Friday, Nov. 5, 2021. AP

Smog chokes Indian capital as air pollution levels climb

NEW DELHI (AP)—Sky obscured by thick, gray smog. Monuments and high-rise buildings swallowed by a blanket of haze. People struggling to breathe.

In the Indian capital, it is that time of the year again.

The city's air quality index fell into the "very poor" category on Sunday, according to SAFAR, India's main environmental monitoring agency, and in many areas levels of the deadly particulate matter reached around six times the global safety threshold.

NASA satellite imagery also showed most of India's northern plains covered by thick haze.

Among the many Indian cities gasping for breath, New Delhi tops the list every year. The crisis deepens particularly in the winter when the burning of crop residues in neighboring states coincides with cooler temperatures that trap deadly smoke. That smoke travels to New Delhi, leading to a surge in pollution in the city of more than 20 million people and exacerbating what is already a public health crisis.

The New Delhi government on Saturday ordered the closing of schools for a week and construction sites for four days beginning Monday. Government offices were also told to shift to work from home for a week to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

The capital's top elected leader, Arvind Kejriwal, said a complete lockdown of the city was likely but the decision would be taken after consultation with the federal government.

India's pollution problems are not limited to the capital.

Emissions from industries with no pollution control technology and coal, which helps produce most of the country's electricity, have been linked to the bad air quality in other urban areas.

India's energy needs are expected to grow faster in the coming decades than in any other country. A part of that demand is expected to be met by dirty coal power, a key source of carbon emissions that pollute the air.

That's why on Saturday, India asked for a last-minute change to the final agreement at crucial climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, calling for the "phase down" not the "phase out" of coal power.

Indian Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav argued against a provision on phasing out coal, saying that developing countries were "entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels."

Many experts criticized this move. They worry it has weakened the final agreement and could also hamper India's fight against climate change and worsening air quality.

"It is not at all desirable," said Samrat Sengupta, the program director for climate change and energy at the Centre for Science and Environment think tank. But he also said India needed enough "carbon space" in the atmosphere for its developmental needs to coexist with the global ambition of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

3 hurt as Thai protesters rally for reform of monarchy

BANGKOK (AP)—Three pro-democracy activists were injured during a rally in Bangkok on Sunday that criticized a ruling by the country's Constitutional Court that said the protesters' demands for reform of the monarchy were tantamount to attempts to overthrow the system of government.

Hundreds of protesters had planned to march to the capital's Democracy Monument but changed route after police blocked their way, and instead trooped to the German Embassy to submit a petition. A protest representative read out a statement saying the rally was to protect democracy and to raise voices against absolute monarchy.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn is a frequent visitor to Germany, and is believed to have traveled there recently. Thai authorities and media have not commented on his whereabouts.

Police and the city's Erawan emergency service confirmed three injuries among the protesters, two of whom were later discharged from a hospital while one remained.

The cause of the injuries was not clear, deputy police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen said, adding there were explosive sounds heard as the protesters made their way to the embassy. According to local media reports, two of the protesters were shot in front of the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the Police Hospital.

World

'Watered-down hope'

» Experts wanted more from climate pact

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)—While world leaders and negotiators are hailing the Glasgow climate pact as a good compromise that keeps a key temperature limit alive, many scientists are wondering what planet these leaders are looking at.

Crunching the numbers they see a quite different and warmer Earth.

"In the bigger picture I think, yes, we have a good plan to keep the 1.5-degree goal within our possibilities," United Nations climate chief Patricia Espinosa told The Associated Press, referring to the overarching global goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the conference host, agreed, calling the deal a "clear road map limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees."

But many scientists are far more skeptical. Forget 1.5 degrees, they say. Earth is still on a path to exceed 2 degrees (3.6 Fahrenheit).

"The 1.5C goal was already on life support before Glasgow and now it's about time to declare it dead," Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheim told The Associated Press in an email Sunday.

A few of the 13 scientists the AP interviewed about the Glasgow pact said they see just enough progress to keep alive the 1.5-degree Celsius limit—and with it, some hope. But barely.

The optimists point to many agreements that came out of Glasgow, including a United States-China deal to work harder together to cut emissions this decade, as well as separate multi-nation agreements that target methane emissions and coal-fired power. After six years of failure, a market-based mechanism would kick-start trading credits that reduce carbon in the air.

The 1.5-degree mark is the more stringent of two targets from the historic 2015 Paris climate accord. United Nations officials and scientists consider it key because a 2018 scientific report found dramatically worse effects on the world after 1.5 degrees.

Austria orders nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated

BERLIN (AP)—The Austrian government has ordered a nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated people starting at midnight Sunday to combat rising coronavirus infections and deaths.

The move prohibits unvaccinated people 12 and older from leaving their homes except for basic activities such as working, grocery shopping, going for a walk—or getting vaccinated.

Authorities are concerned about rising infections and deaths and that soon hospital staff will no longer be able to handle the growing influx of COVID-19 patients.

"It's our job as the government of Austria to protect the people," Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg told reporters in Vienna on Sunday. "Therefore we decided that starting Monday ... there will be a lockdown for the unvaccinated."

The lockdown affects about 2 million people in the Alpine country of 8.9 million, the APA news agency reported. It doesn't apply to children under 12 because they cannot yet officially get vaccinated.

Extremist attack in Burkina Faso kills at least 20

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—An attack by jihadis on a gendarme post in northern Burkina Faso killed at least 19 officers and one civilian Sunday, the ministry of security said.

The attack took place in Inata town in Soum province, near Burkina Faso's border with Mali, Minister of Security Maxime Kone said on state television. The post "faced a cowardly and barbaric attack, an attack during which our forces, with a lot of dignity and devotion kept their position during the fighting," he said.

Kone told The Associated Press via text message that the death toll was "provisional" and likely to rise. A soldier, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to speak to the media, said a military helicopter flying overhead had seen a lot of bodies.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen in Mexico kill family of 5, wound 8-month old baby

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Gunmen in north-central Mexico assaulted a house and killed five family members, including a 14-year-old boy, and wounded an 8-month-old baby. authorities report Sunday. Prosecutors in the state of Guanajuato said the killings occurred Saturday in the town of Apaseo El Grande, where drug gangs have been fighting turf battles. Three women, one man and the boy, all presumed to be related, were found dead of gunshot wounds. The baby was taken to a hospital for treatment of a bullet wound to the arm. A handwritten sign with a message making reference to a drug gang was found at the home. In the nearby city of Silao, police said Sunday they found three men and one woman shot to death at another home. Plastic bags apparetly full of meth were found at the house.

UK: 3 arrested over car explosion outside Liverpool hospital

LONDON (AP)—British police arrested three men under terrorism laws Sunday after a car exploded outside a hospital in Liverpool, killing one man and injuring another. Counter-terrorism police said the three men, whose ages ranged from 21 to 29, were detained in the Kensington area of the northwest England city under the Terrorism Act. Police also cordoned off another residential street in the city. They did not disclose details of the operation. Police were called to reports of a blast involving a taxi at Liverpool Women's Hospital on Sunday morning. Photos showed a vehicle in flames near the hospital's main entrance.

Austria orders nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated

BERLIN (AP)—The Austrian government has ordered a nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated people starting at midnight Sunday to combat rising coronavirus infections and deaths. The move prohibits unvaccinated people 12 and older from leaving their homes except for basic activities such as working, grocery shopping, going for a walk—or getting vaccinated. Authorities are concerned about rising infections and deaths and that soon hospital staff will no longer be able to handle the growing influx of COVID-19 patients.

Overdrive

By KYLE STOCK & KEITH NAUGHTON
BLOOMBERG NEWS

The 2022 Ford Maverick Hybrid XLT and 2L-EcoBoost AWD Lariat. (FORD/TNS)

Detroit's next big idea: Tiny TRUCKS

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Trevor McKinnon decided to buy a new car slowly and then all at once.

In a matter of days, he had to call on his boyfriend's parents to shuttle a water heater and he read a review of the Maverick, a pint-sized pickup truck—the newest new thing from Ford Motor Co.

"I got on cars.com and saw that there was one Maverick for sale in all of Colorado Springs," he recalled. "I drove over there and bought it that day."

McKinnon, 26, doesn't ski or camp; he doesn't ply a trade or even drive off road. But he is a first-time homeowner and is thrilled to no longer ratchet-strap furniture to the roof of his 2018 Ford Focus. What's more, his "cactus gray" Maverick is just as efficient, consistently logging 28 miles per gallon of gasoline.

Having supersized its trucks and killed off many of its regular, car-shaped vehicles (including the Focus that McKinnon traded in), the U.S. auto industry is playing an old hit with tiny pickups. The same types of fuel-sipping work rigs that gained momentum in the Reagan era, after the gas crisis of the 1970s, are having a renaissance today, as young buyers fret over the climate crisis and confront piles of student debt.

Jim Baumbick, Ford's vice president of product line management, said the company sees small trucks as "an untapped opportunity"—precious so-called white space in an auto industry jammed with SUVs of all shapes and sizes. Ford had been closely eyeing the market for starter vehicles, Baumbick said, and saw "a lot of competitors and a lot of customers" but not a lot of trucks. "When you make a list of things you can do in a truck that you can't do in a car," he said, "the list gets really long."

In addition to Ford's Maverick, Hyundai recently launched the Santa Cruz, an even more modest rig that looks like a small sport utility vehicle with a hot tub bolted on the back. In developing the machine, which is being made in Alabama, Hyundai tacticians did more research in America than they have on nearly any vehicle, according to Gil Castillo, senior group manager of product strategy. They didn't find many disgruntled pickup drivers, but they did discover a large crowd of people driving compact crossover SUVs who yearned for more cargo space. These are the mountain bikers of San Francisco and Brooklyn's striped-bass fiends, the soccer dads and ski moms of the suburbs and the DIY, HGTV fans all over America.

"We don't really think of our vehicle as a pickup truck," Castillo explained. "When you look at the size of the compact SUV market … we realized it wouldn't take that many people interested in a solution like the Santa Cruz to reach some significant sales."

Forecaster LMC Automotive sees the compact-pickup market in the U.S. growing to as many as 200,000 vehicles a year by mid-decade. It also expects Toyota will get back in the tiny-truck game, and possibly General Motors. GM declined to comment.

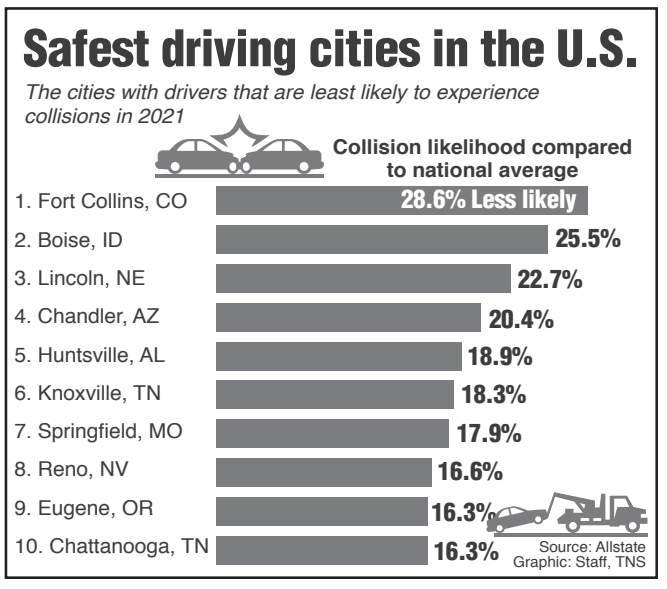
"This is a segment that has legs," said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting at LMC. "Millennials are interested in the utility of a pickup and the flexibility of having that open bed, whether you're using it as a lifestyle truck or making trips to the hardware store."

Chris Cuellar, a computer scientist in Albuquerque, New Mexico, just bought a nearly fully loaded $39,000 Maverick in a blue-gray color called "Area 51 Blue" to add to his family fleet, which also includes a Ford Focus compact car and a Honda Odyssey minivan.

"If you would have asked me two years ago if I'd ever own a truck, I would have told you you're crazy," Cuellar said. "But then as life catches up, you're a homeowner, you start having to do yard work, you need to make a Home Depot run and you realize your Ford Focus isn't cutting it anymore." The major selling point: the Maverick can fit all three of his kids' car seats.

Matt Meredith's YouTube videos about customizing his new Maverick have garnered 60,000 views in the past two weeks. The attention helps drum up ad revenue and business for Meredith's company, Bullseye Custom Autos. The Air Force veteran spends much of his time tuning his two F-150s for the racetrack, but the Maverick has taken over his day-to-day driving: hauling headlights and other gear to trade shows and serving as a loaner for clients. Last year, Meredith logged 46,000 miles in his bigger Ford pickups, so he expects his fuel savings to be significant.

"I've beaten the ever-loving crap out of it and I'm still averaging well more than 23 miles per gallon," he said. "It's extremely useful."


Safest driving cities in the U.S.
The cities with drivers that are least likely to experience collisions in 2021
Collision likelihood compared to national average
1. Fort Collins, CO 28.6% Less likely
2. Boise, ID 25.5%
3. Lincoln, NE 22.7%
4. Chandler, AZ 20.4%
5. Huntsville, AL 18.9%
6. Knoxville, TN 18.3%
7. Springfield, MO 17.9%
8. Reno, NV 16.6%
9. Eugene, OR 16.3%
10. Chattanooga, TN 16.3%
Source: Allstate
Graphic: Staff, TNS

How to get rid of a car

Q: I have a 2006 Hyundai Tucson GLS with approximately 123,000 miles. I have all original documents (keys, manuals, title) and it is in fair condition. It has been parked outside and not used for over a year. It will most likely need to be towed. I stopped driving due to medical issues and my wife is the primary driver using her own car. What is the best (and safest) way for us to sell our used car? I'm thinking we might get $800 if we sell online but are not very savvy and fear the transaction might go off the rails if we try to sell to a stranger. Dealerships only want to deal with it if we are trading, which we are not ready to do. Thanks for your indispensable columns.

A: There are numerous online buyers. Carvana, for instance, is among the reputable buyers that will pick up and pay you for your car. A humanitarian donation is a wonderful way to get rid of a vehicle. A trusted charity is 1-800-Charity Cars (www.800charitycars.org), which will also provide a receipt for tax purposes. The organization says online: "Since placing a vehicle with a client is the exception rather than the rule, donors should assume that their vehicle will be sold at auction or for salvage with the proceeds returning to our charity. We will notify the donor by phone and in writing if their vehicle qualifies as a 'program vehicle' and will be provided to a qualified person or entity."

Q: My question concerns the shelf life of full synthetic motor oil. When we bought our 2015 Audi Q5 3.0T in October 2015, it was recommended that we buy a quart of motor oil in the event that we needed to add it. I bought a quart of Castrol Edge 5W40. Six years on, that same quart sits in my basement. How long can I keep it before it would be a good idea to safely dispose of it?

A: Six years may be pushing it just a bit. The industry consensus is that, properly stored in a cool place, synthetic motor oil is good for five years. Personally, I would add that backup quart to the next oil change. Being a frugal fellow, I am reluctant to toss out a $10 quart of oil. You can dispose of used (or even fresh) oil at any auto parts store, usually at no cost.

Q: I have a 2014 Ford Fusion. I noticed my brake lights were not going out after the car was turned off. Initially I was told the stop light switch assembly P/N 8T4Z-13480-A was bad. Cost $32. I took the car into a Ford dealership and they said the problem was that the brake pedal assembly bushing was broken. I was advised that the bushing could not be replaced and needed the entire brake assembly at a cost of $247 plus two hours to replace at a charge of $300. Thank you in advance for your help.

A: Escorts are notorious for brake lights staying on, which often kills the battery overnight. The switch is not usually the problem, but you probably don't need the entire pedal assembly. There is a rubber bumper (button) on the pedal assembly that breaks. Popping a new one in takes a couple minutes, but the only place to get the part is a Ford dealer, not a parts store. Visit an independent repair shop for a second opinion.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Japan's former princess leaves for US with her commoner husband

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese princess who gave up her royal status to marry her commoner college sweetheart arrived in New York on Sunday, as the couple pursued happiness as newlyweds and left behind a nation that has criticized their romance.

The departure of Mako Komuro, the former Princess Mako, and Kei Komuro, both 30, was carried live by major Japanese broadcasters, showing them boarding a plane amid a flurry of camera flashes at Haneda Airport in Tokyo.

Photos posted online showed the couple arriving at JFK Airport.

Kei Komuro, a graduate of Fordham University law school, has a job at a New York law firm. He has yet to pass his bar exam, another piece of news that local media have used to attack him, although it is common to pass after multiple attempts.

"I love Mako," he told reporters last month after registering their marriage in Tokyo. They did so without a wedding banquet or any of the other usual celebratory rituals.

"I want to live the only life I have with the person I love," he said.

Although Japan appears modern in many ways, values about family relations and the status of women often are seen as somewhat antiquated, rooted in feudal practices.

Such views were accentuated in the public's reaction to the marriage. Some Japanese feel they have a say in such matters because taxpayer money supports the imperial family system.

Other princesses have married commoners and left the palace. But Mako is the first to have drawn such a public outcry, including a frenzied reaction on social media and in local tabloids.

Speculation ranged from whether the couple could afford to live in Manhattan to how much money Kei Komuro would earn and if the former princess would end up financially supporting her husband.

Mako is the niece of Emperor Naruhito, who also married a commoner, Masako. Masako often suffered mentally in the cloistered, regulated life of the imperial family. The negative media coverage surrounding Mako's marriage gave her what palace doctors described last month as a form of traumatic stress disorder.

Japan's former Princess Mako, right, the elder daughter of Crown Prince Akishino, and her husband Kei Komuro, left, walk to board an airplane to New York Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021, at Tokyo International Airport in Tokyo. AP

Former Emperor Akihito, the father of the current emperor, was the first member of the imperial family to marry a commoner. His father was the emperor under whom Japan fought in World War II.

The family holds no political power but serves as a symbol of the nation, attending ceremonial events and visiting disaster zones, and remains relatively popular.

Mako's loss of royal status comes from the Imperial House Law, which allows only male succession. Only male royals have household names, while female imperial family members have only titles and must leave if they marry commoners.

Mako is the daughter of the emperor's younger brother, and her 15-year-old brother is expected to eventually be emperor.

Complicating the former princess's marriage, announced in 2017, was a financial dispute involving Kei Komuro's mother. That issue was recently settled, according to Kyodo news service.

When Kei Komuro returned from the U.S. in September, the couple was reunited for the first time in three years. They met while attending Tokyo's International Christian University a decade ago.

In announcing their marriage, the former princess, a museum curator, made her choice clear.

"He is someone I cannot do without," she said. "Marriage is that decision needed for us to live on, staying true to our hearts."

Ernie, a muppet from the popular children's series "Sesame Street," appears with new character Ji-Young, the first Asian American muppet, on the set of the long-running children's program in New York on Nov. 1, 2021. AP

AP Exclusive: 'Sesame Street' debuts Asian American muppet

What's in a name? Well, for Ji-Young, the newest muppet resident of "Sesame Street," her name is a sign she was meant to live there.

"So, in Korean traditionally the two syllables they each mean something different and Ji means, like, smart or wise. And Young means, like, brave or courageous and strong," Ji-Young explained during a recent interview. "But we were looking it up and guess what? Ji also means sesame."

At only 7 years old, Ji-Young is making history as the first Asian American muppet in the "Sesame Street" canon. She is Korean American and has two passions: rocking out on her electric guitar and skateboarding. The children's TV program, which first aired 52 years ago this month, gave The Associated Press a first look at its adorable new occupant.

Ji-Young will formally be introduced in "See Us Coming Together: A Sesame Street Special." Simu Liu, Padma Lakshmi and Naomi Osaka are among the celebrities appearing in the special, which will drop Thanksgiving Day on HBO Max, "Sesame Street" social media platforms and on local PBS stations.

Some of Ji-Young's personality comes from her puppeteer. Kathleen Kim, 41 and Korean American, got into puppetry in her 30s. In 2014, she was accepted into a "Sesame Street" workshop. That evolved into a mentorship and becoming part of the team the following year. Being a puppeteer on a show Kim watched growing up was a dream come true. But helping shape an original muppet is a whole other feat.

"I feel like I have a lot of weight that maybe I'm putting on myself to teach these lessons and to be this representative that I did not have as a kid," Kim said. But fellow puppeteer Leslie Carrara-Rudolph—who performs Abby Cadabby—reminded her, "It's not about us ... It's about this message."

New mother feels guilty for canceling adoption

DEAR ABBY: I recently backed out of an adoption. I feel terrible about it. How can I mentally and emotionally get over this? My baby girl is 4 months old now, and my guilt is getting worse. I backed out three days before she was born.

The couple I had chosen turned out to be unprofessional and emotionally unstable. They not only caused me several problems but also my job, which I loved. During the four months I knew them, they treated me poorly, and I realized it was better for my little one not to go through with the adoption.

They are now trying to make me out to be a bad person who used them financially—something I really did not. I'm glad now that I kept my daughter. So why do I keep feeling so bad about my decision?

GUILT-RIDDEN IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: If I had to guess the reason, I would say it may be because you know your last-minute change of mind caused this couple pain. A way to assuage your guilt might be to work out a payment plan so they are not out the money they spent. (The lawyer or agency that arranged the adoption may be able to guide you.)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have two sisters. We were very close until our mother passed away two years ago. In her trust, the proceeds from the sale of her house were to be divided among the three of us. Only one sister has children. (They are grown.) My two sisters have decided we should split the proceeds from Mom's house (about $800,000) five ways to include the adult children. Their mother has threatened to "disown me" if I don't go along with the five-way split.

I have always done right by her "kids," and neither sister bothered to ask for my reason for not wanting to include my nephew and niece in the inheritance. I love my sisters and do not want to lose them, but I also don't want to be bullied into a decision I cannot support.

TO DIVIDE OR NOT TO DIVIDE

DEAR TO DIVIDE: Your MOTHER'S wishes were that the money be divided three ways. Your sisters should abide by the directions of the trust. I agree you shouldn't be bullied or threatened into taking less than your mother wanted you to have. If your sisters want "the kids" to have a share of the inheritance, they should gift the amount from their portion rather than extort it from you. Their attitude has not only tarnished something that should have been a blessing, but also created a rift in the family, and that's a shame.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I could really use your help. I don't know how to respond to people I hardly know who end conversations with "I love you." I don't feel comfortable saying that to someone and not meaning it. This isn't like saying, "Have a nice day." Is there a polite way of responding without saying something that to me is totally inappropriate to someone I only have a casual relationship with?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Respond this way: "What a sweet thing to say. Thank you!" Then smile and fade out.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

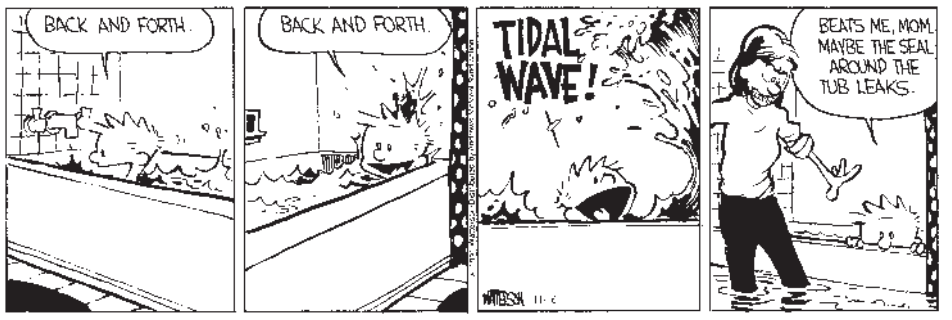
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BOOK COMING OUT TODAY!
I'M TAKING YOU OUT FOR A FANCY DINNER TO CELEBRATE.
UNLESS...
THIS MIGHT CALL FOR FANCY AND SCHMANCY.
OH, HONEY! I'M TOUCHED!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SOME PEOPLE SAY THE OCEANS WILL RISE. IF THAT HAPPENS, WHERE WILL IT LEAVE YOU?
IF I STAY ON THE COUCH, I'M GUESSING A COUPLE FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cattle group
5 Rule in India
8 Mad-houses
12 Oklahoma tribe
13 Green prefix
14 Dog's bowlful
15 Neck injury
17 Profit
18 Napkin's place
19 Butterflies
21 Sulk
24 Eyelid woe
25 Sean Astin film
26 Frat fete
30 "— was saying ..."
31 Booze-hound
32 Geese formation
33 "Rock the Casbah" band
35 Dread
36 Flag creator
37 Campus houses
38 Avenue
41 Corp. boss
42 "Scram!"
43 Pronto
48 Pond duck
49 Pester
50 Morales of "Ozark"
51 Not all
52 "Gosh!"
53 Crummy joint

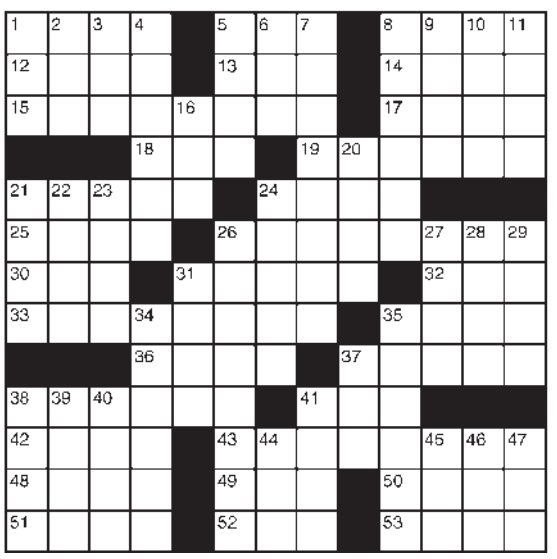
DOWN

1 Explanation
2 Ordinal suffix
3 King, in Cannes
4 Put into use
5 Harvest
6 Rm. coolers
7 New Age pianist
8 Capital of Croatia
9 Norwegian saint
10 Mayberry young 'un
11 Male children
16 Young bloke
20 Rochester's love
21 Unruly kid
22 Hurry
23 Garfield's pal
24 Whoville creator
26 Talking big
27 Say it's so
28 Line of fashion?
29 Towel word
31 — gin fizz
34 Big Easy cuisine
35 Duped
37 Dict. info
38 Bygone fliers
39 Lt. Kojak
40 Meander
41 Batting practice area
44 Dundee denial
45 Tempe sch.
46 Actor Waterston
47 Trendy

Solution time: 22 mins.

W	F	R			P	I	F	A	S		H	O	G
A	N	A			R			N	S	E		O	V	A
H	A	H	D	Y	B	O	Y	S			I	E	L
				J	N				I	A	S	F	A	S
U	N	I	-	A	N	D			A	M	A	L		
C	E	O			E	O	S			E	M	B	E	D
L	A	M	A			S	U	I			S	I	A	I
A	R	E	G	O			V	C	R			L		E
		B	A	M	S			H	E	A	L	E	D	
N	E	U	R	A	L			A	R	F				
C	A	Y			H	O	T	B	U	T	T	O	N	
	R	E			A	P	R	O	N			M	O	A
S	S	R			N	E	E	D	S			Z	O	E

Yesterday's answer 11-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kimberly J. Brown, 37; Maggie Gyllenhaal, 44; Lisa Bonet, 54; Marg Helgenberger, 63.

Happy Birthday: Surround yourself with positive thoughts. Make changes to your space that encourage creativity, spirituality and personal growth. Broaden your outlook, but don't take on impossible tasks. Balance is the key to getting things done that help you achieve goals that contribute to self-satisfaction and overall happiness and contentment. Be passionate about life, love and work, and good things will unfold. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Go over the pros and cons of situations and relationships causing concern. Knowing what you are up against will help decide what and who are worth your time and effort. Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may know how a game is played, but don't expect everyone to play fair. Keep your eyes open, don't hesitate to ask questions, and be sure to cover your tracks and maintain proof and ownership of what you contribute. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Big ideas followed by sound judgment and hard work will pay off. Don't let anyone discourage you or meddle in your affairs. Work at your own pace, and don't share what you are doing until you have everything in place. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put restrictions on entertainment, spending and over-the-top behavior. You can have fun without going into debt. Do something that appeals to your creative skills, and explore what you can do with the talents you possess. A unique path will lead to enlightenment. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Avoid costly ventures or donations you cannot afford. Doing something in the spur of the moment will lead to setbacks. Stay focused on what's attainable, and put your heart and soul into what you are trying to achieve. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Information you gather will lead to a change of mind and direction. Don't let the unknown frighten you. It's time to branch out, try something new and explore what the world has to offer. Fix your surroundings to suit your needs. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Back up and let things unfold before you take sides or let your thoughts be known. Get out and do something that will broaden your outlook, and you'll discover you have more options than you realize. Don't give in to manipulative people. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Step out of your comfort zone if that's what it takes to help make changes that facilitate your happiness and peace of mind. Don't live a lie or be a martyr. You owe it to yourself to do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get your facts straight before you decide to start a debate. An emotional incident will bring you closer to someone you think is special. Honesty will help you keep the peace. Look for a way to have fun without being indulgent. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give credit where credit is due. Take the high road when faced with an ethical choice. Don't be afraid to use your skills and experience to bring about positive change. Physical activities will encourage fitness, self-improvement and romance. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think things through before you make a decision that can influence what you do next. Get the proper documentation or qualifications in order before starting something new. Listen to what others have to say, but do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Invest wisely. Abide by the rules and regulations. When in doubt, ask questions. A new look or image will lift your spirits. A professional change will allow you to use your skills more efficiently. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are courageous, helpful and controlled. You are challenging and protective.

✪ ***star:*** *Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.* ✪✪ ***stars:*** *You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.* ✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Focus and you'll reach your goals.* ✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Aim high; start new projects.* ✪✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8				4		
	4		7		3		8	
9			4		6			3
	5	3				6	7	
	7	4		4		1	2	
6			3		2			7
	8		5		9		1	
		1				9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	8	6	9	4	5	2	7
5	7	6	1	2	8	3	9	4
2	4	9	7	3	5	8	1	6
6	8	1	9	4	7	2	3	5
7	9	2	5	6	3	4	8	1
4	5	3	8	1	2	6	7	9
9	3	5	4	8	1	7	6	2
8	6	7	2	5	9	1	4	3
1	2	4	3	7	6	9	5	8

Difficulty Level ★ 11/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HETEROCHROMIA **Solution: 8 letters**

S	D	H	Y	P	E	R	C	H	R	O	M	I	C	L
C	E	I	B	R	O	W	N	H	E	U	S	S	I	T
I	O	M	L	L	I	L	A	I	T	R	A	P	S	Ⓢ
M	I	N	O	A	C	N	R	N	P	R	U	O	Ⓔ	T
P	N	C	G	R	T	I	G	Y	A	P	I	Ⓨ	S	I
A	H	E	R	E	D	I	T	A	R	Y	Ⓔ	B	R	S
R	E	N	N	I	N	N	N	R	T	M	L	R	O	O
T	R	S	S	E	P	I	Y	G	L	L	E	H	H	P
S	I	C	B	L	U	E	T	S	Y	G	Z	U	E	E
E	T	I	E	O	C	T	R	A	U	M	A	M	S	D
S	A	T	A	O	R	E	T	L	L	S	H	A	D	E
U	N	E	R	C	B	D	A	R	S	K	I	N	L	K
A	C	N	D	E	A	R	E	A	D	O	G	S	O	C
C	E	E	W	A	N	T	E	R	I	O	R	E	G	A
A	E	G	R	U	T	S	S	E	C	T	O	R	A	L

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Anterior, Beard, Benign, Birth, Blue, Border, Brown, Cats, Causes, Color, Congenital, Cornea, Deposits, Dilating, Dogs, Eyes, Genetics, Golds, Gray, Hazel, Hereditary, Horses, Humans, Hyperchromic, Imparts, Inheritance, Inner, Iridis, Irregular, Lack, Partial, Partly, Pupil, Rare, Ring, Sectoral, Shade, Skin, Sturge, Syndromes, Tissue, Trauma, Weber

Yesterday's Answer: Infants

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Winless Lions at least get a tie, 16-16 in rainy Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Playing without star quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who entered the COVID-19 protocol on Saturday night, the Steelers slogged their way to a 16-16 tie with the Detroit Lions on Sunday in an ugly nearly four-hour marathon that produced more comedy than highlights.

Mason Rudolph completed 30 of 50 passes for 242 yards with a touchdown and an interception, but struggled with consistency while making a spot start. Najee Harris ran for 105 yards and at times appeared to be Pittsburgh's only legitimate offensive weapon as the Steelers (5-3-1) saw their four-game winning streak halted in the dank mist at rainy Heinz Field.

Detroit Lions kicker Ryan Santoso (5) misses a field goal attempt during the overtime period of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021, in Pittsburgh. AP

De'Andre Swift ran for a career-high 130 yards for the Lions (0-8-1), who relied heavily on the run to avoid a ninth straight loss with quarterback Jared Goff rendered almost completely ineffective.

Goff connected on 14 of 25 passes for just 114 yards as the NFL saw its first tie since Cincinnati and Philadelphia played to a draw after 70 minutes on Sept. 27, 2020.

Steelers star linebacker T.J. Watt left in the third quarter with a hip injury and did not return. He was hurt when he took down Goff to push his sack total to 12 1/2.

Titans 23, Saints 21

In Nashville, Tennessee, Ryan Tannehill ran and threw for touchdowns as the Tennessee held off the Saints for their NFL-best sixth straight victory.

The Titans (8-2) also became he second team in NFL history to win five straight over playoff teams from the season before, joining the 2003 Philadelphia Eagles. Tennessee improved to 7-0 overall against 2020 playoff teams this season.

The Saints (5-4) dropped their second straight since losing quarterback Jameis Winston to a season-ending ACL injury.

Against the Titans, they also played without a trio of starters in four-time Pro Bowl running back Alvin Kamara because of an injured knee, left tackle Terron Armstead (knee and shoulder injuries) and defensive back C.J. Gardner-Johnson (foot), who was just put on injured reserve.

The Saints still had a chance to tie late.

Washington 29, Buccaneers 19

In Landover, Md., Tom Brady threw two interceptions in the first quarter as part of an implosion by the reigning Super Bowl champions.

Washington lost Chase Young, last season's Defensive Rookie of the Year, to a potentially serious injury.

Tampa Bay lost a second consecutive game on either side of its bye week and was dealt an extra blow in the last minute when nose tackle Vita Vea was carted off with an injury on the final play of a 19-play, 80-yard drive over 10:26 that sealed the victory for Washington (3-6).

Brady threw two picks just like in the loss to New Orleans two weeks ago and finished 23 of 34 for 220 yards and two touchdown passes.

The Buccaneers (6-3) couldn't find much rhythm on either side of the ball in a rematch of their wild-card victory at Washington from January. Brady's interceptions on two of his first six throws—one off the hands of rookie Jaelon Darden and another inexplicable toss that was caught by Washington safety Bobby McCain—disjointed the NFL's best scoring and passing offense.

Cowboys 43, Falcons 3

In Arlington, Texas, Ezekiel Elliott ran for two touchdowns, Nahshon Wright recovered a blocked punt for a score a week after touching one kept Dallas from getting the ball, and the Cowboys routed the Falcons.

Plenty of things that went wrong for the Cowboys in a blowout loss to Denver that ended a six-game winning streak a week ago went right to help the NFC East leaders get back on track. Offensive execution was among them.

Dallas (7-2) looked much more like the NFL's No. 1 offense with Dak Prescott throwing two TD passes to CeeDee Lamb and Elliott finishing two drives kept alive by fourth-down conversions, all before halftime.

Then came the sequence that led to the highest-scoring quarter in franchise history (29 points in the second) and Dallas' biggest halftime lead (36-3) since 1971.

Packers 17, Seahawks 0

In Green Bay, Wis., Aaron Rodgers was uneven in his return from COVID-19 but did more than enough to support a standout Green Bay defense.

A.J. Dillon rushed for two fourth-quarter touchdowns for the Packers, who handed the Seahawks their first shutout loss in a decade.

A week after he was forced to sit out a loss at Kansas City because of a positive COVID-19 test and the subsequent revelation he was not vaccinated, Rodgers went 23 of 37 for 292 yards and threw an interception in the end zone in the third quarter.

Rodgers did not practice all week and was cleared to play Saturday under the NFL's protocols for unvaccinated players. Although Rodgers was hardly at his best, his return made this much clear: With him, the Packers (8-2) are among the best teams in the NFC and a Super Bowl contender.

Seattle's Russell Wilson also struggled in his return after missing three games with an injury to the middle finger on his throwing hand. He went 20 of 40 for 161 yards with two interceptions. The Seahawks (3-6) wasted two scoring opportunities when Kevin King and Adrian Amos picked off Wilson passes in the end zone.

Panthers 34, Cardinals 10

In Glendale, Ariz., Cam Newton provided a flashback to his Superman days in his second debut with the Panthers, throwing for one touchdown, running for another.

Newton, the 2015 NFL MVP who was signed by the quarterback-thin Panthers earlier in the week, made his presence felt on his first play of the game, entering on third down and screaming "I'm back!" after barreling into the right corner of the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown.

On Carolina's next drive, Newton threw a 2-yard TD pass to Robby Anderson as the Panthers (5-5) built a stunning 17-0 lead in the first quarter and a 23-0 advantage by halftime.

Eagles 30, Broncos 13

In Denver, cornerback Darius Slay returned a fumble 83 yards for a touchdown and rookie DeVonta Smith hauled in two TD passes from Jalen Hurts.

The Eagles (4-6) won for the fourth time on the road and prevented the Broncos (5-5) from sweeping the NFC East teams on their schedule just one week after Denver dominated Dallas in one of the biggest upsets of the season.

The Broncos had trouble punching it in all afternoon, stalling at the Eagles 3, 10 and 11 before Melvin Gordon III took the handoff on fourth-and-1 from the Eagles 23 with the Broncos trailing 20-13 late in the third quarter. He gained the 2 yards necessary for the first down, but he coughed up the football before going down.

Slay scooped the ball from the pile, reversed direction just in front of his 10-yard line and then zig-zagged his way downfield through a smattering of orange jerseys.

Vikings 27, Chargers 20

In Inglewood, Calif., Kirk Cousins threw a pair of touchdown passes to Tyler Conklin and Dalvin Cook rushed for 94 yards and a score.

Justin Jefferson had nine receptions for 143 yards to help Minnesota (4-5) snap a two-game losing streak after it squandered late leads to Dallas and Baltimore.

The Vikings came into the game with five players on the COVID-19 list, including starting safety Harrison Smith and center Garrett Bradbury. They also were missing four other defensive starters because of injuries.

Los Angeles (5-4) has dropped three of its past four.

Patriots 35, Browns 7

In Foxborough, Mass., Mac Jones threw three touchdown passes, rookie Rhamondre Stevenson rushed for a career-high 100 yards and two scores, and the Browns lost quarterback Baker Mayfield to a knee injury.

The Patriots (6-4) won their fourth straight game. The Browns (5-5) have dropped four of their last six and haven't won at New England since 1992, when Bill Belichick was their coach.

Jones finished 19 of 23 for 198 yards. Hunter Henry added a pair of TD receptions. Playing without star running back Nick Chubb, who missed the game after a positive COVID-19 test, the Browns were held to 217 total yards and were 1 of 11 on third downs.

Colts 23, Jaguars 17

In Indianapolis, Jonathan Taylor rushed for 116 yards and a touchdown and Indianapolis returned a blocked punt for a score.

Indy (5-5) has won four of five to reach .500 for the first time this season. The Jaguars (2-7) have lost 12 consecutive road games and nine straight against AFC South foes.

Taylor has scored in seven straight games and gained at least 100 yards from scrimmage in each of those, both league highs. He's the fourth player during the Super Bowl era to achieve both feats and he's tied with two-time defending NFL rushing champ Derrick Henry for the league lead with 937 yards.

After taking an early 17-0 lead, the Colts struggled to seal it—again. All they could muster was Michael Badgley's short field goal near the end of the first half and his 37-yarder with 2:22 left in the fourth quarter. It turned out to be just enough against a Jacksonville offense that finished with 331 total yards.

Bills 45, Jets 17

In East Rutherford, N.J., Josh Allen threw two touchdown passes, Buffalo ran for four scores and the Bills' top-ranked ranked defense intercepted Mike White four times.

It was an impressive showing for the Bills (6-3), who rebounded from an embarrassing 9-6 loss at Jacksonville last week by thoroughly dominating the lowly Jets (2-7).

Allen was 21 of 28 for 366 yards with TD passes to Matt Breida and Stefon Diggs and an interception. Breida added a scoring run, as did Devin Singletary, Zack Moss and wide receiver Isaiah McKenzie as Buffalo's offense looked alive and well.

Taron Johnson, Tre'Davious White, Levi Wallace and Jordan Poyer each intercepted White, who made his third straight start for the injured Zach Wilson—and it might have been his last. Wilson is getting closer to a return from a sprained knee ligament and there was some speculation the Jets could continue with White even when the rookie is healthy. His performance against the Bills might have ended all that. White was 24 of 44 for 251 yards and the four INTs before leaving late with an injury and being replaced by Joe Flacco.

Chiefs 41, Raiders 14

In Las Vegas, Patrick Mahomes threw five touchdown passes and returned to his usual form after a surprisingly shaky stretch this season, and the Kansas City Chiefs moved into first place in the AFC West with a 41-14 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday night.

Mahomes and the Chiefs (6-4) showed little resemblance to the team that overpowered the AFC the past three seasons over the first nine weeks, raising questions about whether they could make it back to a third straight Super Bowl.

But they used a dominant performance over the Raiders (5-4) on a day everyone else in the division lost to return to the top of the standings.

Mahomes completed three short TD passes before flashing his playmaking brilliance early in the fourth quarter after Kansas City converted a fake punt on a 16-yard pass from Tommy Townsend to Marcus Kemp.

Two plays later, Mahomes scrambled away from pressure and just before crossing the line of scrimmage lofted a deep pass across his body that Darrel Williams caught for a 38-yard TD that made it 34-14.

Bridges, Rozier help Hornets snap Warriors 7-game win streak

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Terry Rozier sought out Charlotte Hornets teammate Mason Plumlee, the team's 7-foot center, after the game Sunday night game and joked with him that he plans to handle all jump balls going forward.

Rozier outleaped Draymond Green on a late jump ball and also made two key free throws to help the Hornets snap the Golden State Warriors' winning streak at seven, 106-102 on Sunday night.

Rozier finished with 20 points—all in the second half—Miles Bridges had 22, LaMelo Ball added 21, and Cody Martin had 12 points and eight rebounds. The Hornets improved to 8-7, winning three straight after a five-game skid.

"This says a lot for our team and where we are headed," Rozier said. "We are trying to go places and get our organization like theirs. This is a great step to where we think we want to go."

With the Hornets leading by two, Green and Andre Iguodala trapped Rozier near the sideline at midcourt with 15.3 seconds left, forcing a jump ball.

Given the size discrepancy, it looked as if Warriors would get the ball back and have a chance to win or second the game into overtime, but the 6-foot-1 Rozier outleaped the 6-foot-6 Green and the Hornets controlled the tip with Jalen McDaniels coming down with the ball.

The Warriors were forced to quickly foul and Rozier and he made both free throws with 12.7 seconds to make it a two-possession game. Golden State missed its final two shots.

"I think it is more like the timing of the ball," Rozier said. "... I definitely wanted it because I had just turned the ball over and it was like everybody in the whole gym was looking at No. 3. I just wanted to try to make a play for our team and it worked out."

Charlotte Hornets guard Terry Rozier, top, defends against Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021, in Charlotte, N.C. AP

Green said the official was still talking to him and Rozier when he threw the ball up in the air, and he was caught off-guard.

"He was like, 'I'm going to throw the ball all the way to the top, it's going all the way...' and then boom!'" Green said. "And I'm like, 'Oh, (crap)!' But like I said, I have to get that jump regardless of the situation."

Andrew Wiggins scored 28 points on 12-of-19 shooting for Golden State, and Stephen Curry added 24 points and 10 assists in his annual homecoming game. Coming off an eight-game homestand, the Warriors dropped to 11-2.

The game featured 25 lead changes and neither team led by more than seven points.

The intensity picked up after Charlotte's Kelly Oubre Jr. was charged with a double-technical and ejected early in the fourth quarter after complaining to an official about a non-call on a driving layup.

It went back and forth from there, with both sides chirping at the officials.

Crew chief David Guthrie said Oubre was ejected because of two separate unsportsmanlike acts.

"The first technical foul was for an overt unsportsmanlike action indicating resentment to a no call," Guthrie said on the NBA pool report. "The second technical was for an unsportsmanlike wave off directed towards the official."

The left-handed shooting Bridges once again led the Hornets in scoring, and it was the forward's right-hand hook shot in the lane with 39 seconds left that gave Charlotte the lead for good.

Lakers 114, Spurs 106

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis had 34 points and 15 rebounds and Los Angeles beat San Antonio.

Talen Horton-Tucker scored 17 points in his season debut for the Lakers, and Carmelo Anthony and Wayne Ellington each had 15 points.

Los Angeles led by 14 points in the second half, then held on improve to 3-3 since LeBron James was sidelined Nov. 4 because of an abdominal strain. The Lakers have won four overall games this season without James.

Davis had the big game two days after the Lakers were humbled by 24 points in a home loss to Minnesota, with the All-Star forward saying afterward the performance was "embarrassing" and that the team lacked effort in a deciding third quarter.

Dejounte Murray had a triple-double for the Spurs with 22 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Keldon Johnson scored 24 points.

Nets 120, Thunder 96

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 33 points to help Brooklyn beat Oklahoma City.

Durant played eight seasons in Oklahoma City, winning four scoring titles and an MVP award and leading the Thunder to the NBA Finals once before joining Golden State in 2016. He was booed during pregame warmups and whenever he touched the ball early.

Patty Mills scored 29 points and made a career-high nine 3-pointers, and James Harden added 16 points and 13 assists. Brooklyn has won eight of nine.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 23 points for the Thunder.

Hawks 120, Bucks 100

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored a season-best 42 points and Atlanta snapped a six-game losing streak, beating Milwaukee in an Eastern Conference final rematch.

Young just missed a triple-double, finishing with 10 assists and eight rebounds to push the Hawks to a much-needed victory.

Despite the return of two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, the NBA champion Bucks lost for the seventh time in 10 games. Antetokounmpo scored 26 points in his return to the lineup after missing a game with a sprained right ankle. Jrue Holiday had 19 points.

Suns 115, Rockets 89

In Houston, Devin Booker had 26 points and six assists and Phoenix won its eighth straight game and handed Houston its 11th loss in a row.

Booker had 16 points in the first quarter, and finished 9 of 23 from the field. JaVale McGee added 19 points and 14 rebounds, Chris Paul had 15 points and seven steals, and Mikal Bridges had 14 points and six rebounds.

Christian Wood had 17 points and eight rebounds for Houston. The Rockets are an NBA-worst 1-12.

Nuggets 124, Trail Blazers 95

In Denver, Nikola Jokic just missed out on his third straight triple-double, finishing with 28 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Denver spoiled Chauncey Billups' hometown return as Portland's coach.

Billups, a Denver native who had two playing stints with the Nuggets, lost his head coaching debut in his hometown without star Damian Lillard. Lillard was out with what the team called a lower abdominal tendinopathy.

CJ McCollum led Portland with 21 points.

Bulls 100, Clippers 90

In Los Angeles. DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points, Zach LaVine added 29 and Chicago ended Los Angeles' winning streak at seven.

Lonzo Ball had 10 points for the Bulls, who used generous amounts of Los Angeles-area talent to earn the victory. DeRozan went to USC, while LaVine and Ball attended UCLA.

Paul George had 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, and Eric Bledsoe added 21 points.

As Cunningham still learns, NBA rookies doing fine

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Cade Cunningham's final shot of his most recent game was a 3-point try from the left wing as time was running out against the Brooklyn Nets, an attempt that never got anywhere near the rim.

Kevin Durant swatted it away with ease.

And weirdly, that was a good thing for the Detroit Pistons.

The first four games of Cunningham's NBA career have not exactly been the stuff of lore: He's shooting 23%, the worst by any No. 1 overall pick not named Anthony Bennett (who famously went 0 for 15 in his first four games) in that span over the last 55 seasons. But the Pistons are not worried whatsoever about their rookie, who missed the preseason and the start of the regular season while recovering from a sprained ankle.

The way they see it, the more adversity Cunningham handles now, the faster he'll grow.

"He's learning in real time in real games," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "It's on the job training."

Given that he was hurt and missed the traditional ramp-up to the season, Cunningham's numbers don't stack up well with some other rookies so far this season — though there is obviously a ton of time for that to change, and likely will.

And the injury also makes it unfair to compare Cunningham's very early, very small body of work against other No. 1 picks, especially since many of them had big numbers in their rookie seasons. Anthony Edwards averaged 19.3 points for Minnesota last season, Zion Williamson 22.5 points in 24 games for New Orleans the year before that, Deandre Ayton a 16-point, 10-rebound double-double average the year before that.

"It's just going to take the young man some games to get his sea legs under him," Casey said. "He had no exhibition, had no training camp. It's four games now and I think you're going to see him grow and grow and grow."

Cunningham's slow start notwithstanding, the rookie class has had a promising first few weeks as pros.

Start with the big men, with a couple of potential standouts jumping off the page. Toronto's Scottie Barnes, the No. 4 pick, is averaging 16.6 points and 8.7 rebounds. Cleveland's Evan Mobley, the No. 3 pick, has four double-digit rebound games already.

"Both really good players, I think really good players with bright futures," Toronto coach Nick Nurse said. "You can see the size and the skill combination that they both have. They're going to be around for a long time, I would imagine, both of them, and just continue to get better. That will probably be an interesting matchup to watch as the years roll by here."

Barnes didn't get a win over Brooklyn on Sunday. He got a nice consolation prize, though — high praise from Durant.

"His IQ for the game, his length, his enthusiasm for the game, all of that stuff shines bright when you watch him play." Durant said. "You can tell he just wants to be there for his teammates. He makes winning basketball plays. ... That's rare for a guy, how old is he, 19, 20?"

Indiana's Chris Duarte, the No. 13 pick, has been perhaps the surprise of the class so far with averages of 16.0 points and 4.5 rebounds. No. 8 pick Franz Wagner is averaging 13.7 points for Orlando. No. 2 pick Jalen Green is averaging 13.6 points for Houston. Josh Giddey, the No. 6 pick, is averaging 6.1 assists per game and has Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault raving.

"We've asked him to do a lot," Daigneault said of the point guard who is either 6-foot-8 or 6-foot-9, depending on who you ask. (For the record, Giddey has said he's 6-9.)

Cunningham is at 10.8 points and 5.8 rebounds, off to a 4-for-28 start from 3-point range and has appeared in just one Pistons victory so far.

This is clear, too: The Pistons are telling the No. 1 pick to shoot his way out of the slow start.

"Cade keeps shooting, no matter what," Pistons forward Saddiq Bey said. "Not afraid to take the shots in the big moments. I think that's good. We need that and it's going to be good for us in the future."

And when it comes to rookies, that's what it's about anyway.

Ohtani tells Japanese press he feels 'down' when Angels lose

TOKYO (AP)—Even Shohei Ohtani, arguably the best player in the major leagues, feels down at times, particularly when his team isn't winning.

And that's been the case during each of the four seasons he's been with the Los Angeles Angels, all of which have ended with losing records.

Sharing his mental state was among the few small nuggets Ohtani revealed in an hour-long interview on Monday at the Japan National Press Club.

The Q-and-A session focused heavily on local matters about being back home, about local food and local baseball personalities, and even questions about when the 27-year-old might start a family.

"I think this is something you cannot force to happen, it just naturally happens," he said, speaking in Japanese through an interpreter. "I think it's still well ahead of me."

Ohtani is under contract for next season at $5.5 million, which will be his highest annual salary thus far. He remains under the Angels' control through 2023 and could become a free agent after that season.

Questions about free agency did not come up in the interview, although he was asked about his taxes in the United States.

"Los Angeles has high tax rates," he said, indicating he was happy to pay them. "So slightly more than half of what I earn has to be paid in taxes. So I pay my taxes. It's not that I consume a lot. I really don't spend, so it just goes into my savings."

Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani attends a press conference at the Japan National Press Club Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, in Tokyo. AP

Almost every question began with a congratulatory message, often long ones. He was asked to comment on his memories of the 2011 tsunami, earthquake and meltdown of three nuclear reactors that killed almost 20,000 people in northeastern Japan—his home region.

And he was asked several times about being "down" emotionally and getting through it.

"How do you overcome that?" he was asked.

"Of course I feel down," he said, indicating his emotions toward the of end of the just-completed season.

"Since I joined the major leagues, the team has not been winning and we didn't have much prospect of going beyond the regular season. So in the latter half of the season, psychologically it was more stressful. And of course I feel down occasionally when I can't hit—or when my pitches are hit."

However, Ohtani said that even suffering through a losing season was better than not playing at all, which he experienced in several stretches because of injury.

"So even feeling down included, it was a wonderful year," he said.

Ohtani is a leading candidate for the American League MVP award, which will be announced later this week.

He was asked where he would be when the award winner is revealed.

"I don't know where I will be," he said straightforwardly, which was typical of his responses.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	10	4	.714	–
Philadelphia	8	6	.571	2
New York	7	6	.538	2½
Toronto	7	7	.500	3
Boston	6	7	.462	3½

Southeast Division

Washington	9	3	.750	–
Miami	8	5	.615	1½
Charlotte	8	7	.533	2½
Atlanta	5	9	.357	5
Orlando	3	10	.231	6½

Central Division

Chicago	9	4	.692	–
Cleveland	9	5	.643	½
Milwaukee	6	8	.429	3½
Indiana	6	8	.429	3½
Detroit	3	9	.250	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	8	4	.667	–
Memphis	6	7	.462	2½
San Antonio	4	9	.308	4½
New Orleans	2	12	.143	7
Houston	1	12	.077	7½

Northwest Division

Denver	9	4	.692	–
Utah	8	5	.615	1
Portland	6	8	.429	3½
Oklahoma City	5	7	.417	3½
Minnesota	4	8	.333	4½

Pacific Division

Golden State	11	2	.846	–
Phoenix	9	3	.750	1½
L.A. Clippers	8	5	.615	3
L.A. Lakers	8	6	.571	3½
Sacramento	5	8	.385	6

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	280	135
New England	6	4	0	.600	275	177
Miami	3	7	0	.300	177	252
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	161	296

South

Tennessee	8	2	0	.800	278	232
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	268	230
Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	149	232
Houston	1	8	0	.111	128	258

North

Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	231	217
Pittsburgh	5	3	1	.611	177	185
Cincinnati	5	4	0	.556	236	203
Cleveland	5	5	0	.500	231	241

West

Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	262	241
L.A. Chargers	5	4	0	.556	219	228
Las Vegas	5	4	0	.556	210	230
Denver	5	5	0	.500	200	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	7	2	0	.778	284	195
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	257	231
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	179	216
Washington	3	6	0	.333	185	246

South

Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	279	212
New Orleans	5	4	0	.556	222	178
Carolina	5	5	0	.500	205	193
Atlanta	4	5	0	.444	178	263

North

Green Bay	8	2	0	.800	216	180
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	221	211
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	150	224
Detroit	0	8	1	.056	150	260

West

Arizona	8	2	0	.800	287	189
L.A. Rams	7	2	0	.778	261	196
San Francisco	3	5	0	.375	185	202
Seattle	3	6	0	.333	181	186

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giants manager Kapler gets contract extension through 2024

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Giants manager Gabe Kapler has been rewarded with a new contract after a record-setting season during which San Francisco won a franchise-best 107 games and the NL West.

The extension announced Friday runs through the 2024 season. The 46-year-old Kapler has just completed his second season as manager.

San Francisco edged the rival Dodgers on the final day of the regular season by one game before 106-win Los Angeles, which had won the previous eight division titles, eliminated the Giants in a thrilling five-game NL Division Series.

"Gabe has done an extraordinary job in his role as field manager over the past two seasons, is a key contributor to our front office, and the Giants organization takes great pride in his active engagement with the community," president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi said in a statement. "Coming off a season in which his work and leadership were instrumental to our success, it was a high priority for us to provide a level of stability and certainty to our continued partnership. We're thrilled about today's announcement."

Kapler replaced Bruce Bochy when Bochy retired following the 2019 campaign and immediately began doing things his way—bringing in a large coaching staff to support him. San Francisco went 29-31 during the coronavirus-shortened 2020 season.

Then the Giants surprised everybody this season by going 107-55 and winning the club's first division crown since 2012 in a year when the Dodgers and San Diego Padres were the heavy favorites.

"I'm honored to work for the San Francisco Giants and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue to build on the work of the last two years," Kapler said. "There is nowhere I'd rather be, and I am excited to continue preparing with the entire organization."

WINKFIELD

From Page 20

138 points in the Queen of the Court was Lizama with 133 points followed by Delos Santos with 127 points. Mahin came next with 126 points followed by Yamada (115), Espino (108), Borja (102), and Billimon (91).

The King and Queen of the Court tryouts was the second tryout held by NMIVA to select members of the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for next year's Pacific Mini Games the islands will be hosting for the first time.

NMIVA president Somia Quan was very happy with turnout and the successful staging of the second tryouts.

"We had a total of 21 participants—eight women and 13 men—who competed in about five hours of beach volleyball competition. Last Saturday was our second tryout tournament, which was postponed from Nov. 6 due to the COVID-19 outbreak in our community. We are fortunate that our sport is outdoors, but we still take extra precaution by practicing the 3Ws, sanitizing the volleyballs between games, and enforcing a mask-on rule when not playing," she said.

As the countdown to the 2022 Mini Games continues, NMIVA just hopes future tryouts won't be postponed by another flareup of local COVID-19 cases.

"We only have so much time left so as a federation we are trying to continue to make progress in selecting our national team as safely as reasonable. We are excited with the numbers we have and we hope to continue this momentum as we get closer to the Pacific Mini Games," she said.

Organizing the tryouts also prepares NMIVA to hosting the beach volleyball competition of the Mini Games where 64 athletes have so far confirmed participation.

Results of the men's division of the King and Queen of the Court will be published in tomorrow's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*.

TEENAGER

From Page 20

pupil under his watch.

"She's always putting in the work and her approach and commitment is like no other and she's also very disciplined. I'm very proud of her and only time will tell on just how good she can be," he said.

Camacho, whose trademark is wearing camo shorts while playing golf, said her student winning the ladies flight of the Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic was also very special for him.

"As a coach it's those special occasions like this where you make a difference in someone's game and skill level. You always want to get them to where they want to be," he added.

As for the conditions last Saturday, Jin said the fairways were pretty good, but the greens were a little slower than expected.

She admitted that she has some issues with the weather though. "It was terrible. We just stopped playing when it rained and go on when it stopped."

Curiously, the hole where she birdied was where she had the most problems. "Hole No. 3 was a problem. It was a big obstacle because the wind was strong that day. I think I was just a little lucky [for making the birdie]," she said.

Finishing a stroke behind Jin was Sherlyn Jones with her 83 (42-41), while Ma Ae Jeon and Lim Hyun Sook cracked the Top 4 with scores of 85 (44-41) and 85 (44-41), respectively. The former beat the latter via scorecard tiebreak.

For coming in first in the ladies flight, Jin took home $500, while Jones settled for the $300 runner-up purse. Jeon won $200 and Sook received $100 for finishing in the Top 4.

In the B flight, Darion Jones became $500 richer after winning the division with his 7-over 79. He had 11 pars en route to shooting a 38 in the front nine and a 41 in the back.

Coming in second and winning $300 was Ben Pelisamen. He came away with an 81 (40-41), while completing the Top 4 were Carl Hocog (82, 43-39) and Domingo Atalig (87, 44-43). Hocog and Atalig went home with $200 and $100, respectively.

Results of the other flights of last Saturday's Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic Tournament will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

ELLIOT

From Page 20

the girls because it made me work harder," she said.

Elliot advanced to the finals after eclipsing second seed Minseong Kim. 6-2, 6-0. Prior to that she beat Wataru Kadokura in another third set supertiebreaker, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 10-2.

Serin opened with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Simon Tang then beat top seed Cody Shimizu in another third set super-tiebreaker, 6-4, 5-7, 10-8, to enter the finals.

In the girls 14-and-under division, top seed Irin Chung won the championship after triumphing over second seed Hoo Wang, 7-5, 6-1. Chung only had to beat Hannah Chae, 6-0, 6-4, to punch her finals ticket after getting a bye in the first round. Wang, meanwhile, had to beat Isa Nishitani, 6-0, 6-1, in the semis and Lina Tsukagoshi with the same score in the first round.

Results of the other boys and girls doubles of the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

Winless Lions at least get a tie, 16-16 in rainy Pittsburgh PAGE 17

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Sports

Ohtani tells Japanese press he feels 'down' when Angels lose PAGE 19

Winkfield hailed Queen of the Court

Kathleen Winkfield won 6 out of 7 games en route to winning the women's division of the King and Queen of the Court tryouts held last Saturday at the sand courts of the Crowne Plaza Resort. MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kathleen Winkfield came a win short of a perfect score, but nonetheless topped the women's division of the King and Queen of the Court tryouts held by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association last Saturday at the sand courts of the Crowne Plaza Resort.

The math instructor at Northern Marianas College came 9 points shy of scoring a perfect 147 points after winning six of her seven matches.

Winkfield first paired with Alyssa Mahin and they defeated Toni Yamada and Chamessa Lizama, 21-14. She followed that up with a 21-5 victory while playing with Yamada opposite Naomi Billimon and Julia Espino.

Win No. 3 came while playing with Espino against Mahin and Stephanie Borja, 21-7. Suiting up with Borja the next game, Winkfield defeated Yamada and Savannah Delos Santos, 21-8.

She then partnered with Delos Santos and the duo triumphed over Lizama and Espino, 21-14. Winkfield followed that up with a 21-9 victory playing with Lizama over Billimon and Borja. Her lone defeat came against Mahin and Delos Santos while playing with Billimon, 12-21.

Finishing second to Winkfield's

See WINKFIELD on Page 19

Teenager tops Rotary golf ladies flight

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

At the rate she's going, teenage golfer Zhi Min Jin may just have to bust out those camouflage shorts. This, after the 14-year-old Marianas High School beat players twice her age to win the ladies flight of last Saturday's Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic Tournament at the Coral Ocean Resort.

Jin won the division after shooting an 82 built around a 39 in the front nine and a 43 in the back that included a birdie in the par-3 hole No. 3.

She has been improving steadily the past seven years since she picked up the sport. Jin is now under the tutelage of many time national player Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho and she attributes a lot of her success in the golf course to him.

"I really respect him as a teacher and I feel honored to be learning from him. He's a really good instructor," she said.

Camacho said the CNMI National Golf Team member for next year's Pacific Mini Games has been a star

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Zhi Min Jin, second from left first row, poses with other ladies flight winners and Rotary Club of Saipan officials led by president Ivan Ilmov, third from left second row, during the 2021 Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic Tournament awards banquet last Saturday at Saipan World Resort. MARK RABAGO

Elliot ecstatic after winning B16 singles

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hye Jin Elliot was literally a girl among boys in the boys 16-and-under division of the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic, but that didn't stop the Grace Christian Academy student to top the age group last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The unseeded player beat doubles partner Serin Chung in a protracted all-girls finals, 6-3, 2-6, 10-4. Clinching the B16 championship via a super-tiebreaker third set and beating boys in their own division, however, still ran second to going undefeated in the recent high school volleyball league for Elliot though.

The 16-year-old said she's been playing volleyball since middle school and winning a tournament without dropping a single game was very memorable. Elliot was the star spiker in the GCA Lady Eagles' undefeated season in the 2021 NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League. It was their fifth straight championship in the competition.

Hye Jin Elliot in action during her and partner Serin Chung's doubles match in the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. MARK RABAGO

She, however, conceded that winning the boys 16-and-under division in the TanHoldings Tennis Classic brought a big smile on her face.

"I didn't think I had the possibility to win the boys [division] so I was happier than the time I won

See ELLIOT on Page 19